D 000 521 190 9
UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

OF THE

LIBRARY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SERVICE
OCT 5 1970
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

NATAL NATIVES LAND COMMITTEE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Price 15s.

CAPE TOWN:
CAPE TIMES LIMITED, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS.
1918.

[U.G. 35—'18.]

Cost of Printing: £ 269 s. 5 d. 9

B& 12829.950.8.18.
C.T.Ltd.—B2668.

Government Printing and Stationery Office,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope,
October, 1916.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE following Government Publications in addition to Blue Books and Papers, printed by order of Parliament, are obtainable at the Government Printing and Stationery Department, Good Hope Hall, P.O. Box 28, Cape Town. Cheques, Money Orders or Postal Notes should be made payable to the Superintendent of Printing and Stationery. Printed lists will be sent post free on application. Post free in South Africa. Orders must be accompanied by remittance, which may be sent by Free Money Order, payable to "Revenue" and obtainable at any Post Office.

C. J. FAWCETT,
Superintendent.

Goevernements Drukwerk en Schrijfbehoeften Kantoor,
Kaapstad, Kaap de Goede Hoop,
Oktober 1916.

VERKOOP VAN GOEVERNEMENTS PUBLIKATIES.

DE volgende Goevernements Publikaties, behalve de Blauw Boeken en Papieren gedrukt op last van 't Parlement, zijn te krijgen in het Goevernements Drukwerk en Schrijfbehoeften Kantoor, Goede Hoop Zaal, Post Bus 28, Kaapstad. Cheques, Geld Order of Post Noten moeten betaalbaar gemaakt worden aan de Opziener van Drukwerk en Schrijfbehoeften. Gedrukte lijsten zullen postvrij worden gezonden op aanvraag. Postvrij in Zuid Afrika. Met Bestellingen moet het geld samengestuurd worden, hetgeen kan worden gezonden per Vrije Geld Order, betaalbaar aan "Revenue" en te krijgen in enig Postkantoor.

C. J. FAWCETT,
Opziener.

Acts of Parliament, Cape Province. Price.

	Octavo.		Foolscap.
	s. d.		s. d.
1861	2 6	..	—
1862	2 0	..	
1863	2 0	..	
1865	3 6	..	—
1866–7	2 0	..	—
1867	2 0	..	—
1868	2 0	..	—
1879	—	..	1 6
1880	—	..	1 6
1881	—	..	1 6
1882	—	..	— *
1883	2 6	..	1 6*
1884	2 0	..	1 6*
1885	2 0	..	1 6*
1886	2 0	..	— *
1888	3 6	..	1 6*
1889	4 6	..	4 6*
1890	3 0	..	1 6*
1891	2 0	..	1 6*
1892	3 0	..	1 6*
1893	2 6	..	1 6*
1894	2 6	..	— *
1895	2 6	..	1 6*
1896	2 6	..	1 6*
1897	2 6	..	1 6
1898	—	..	— *
1900	2 6	..	— *
1902	1 3	..	—
1903	1 3	..	—
1904	3 6	..	—
1905	3 6	..	—
1906	3 6	..	—
1907	2 6	..	—
1908	3 6	..	—
1909	3 6	..	—

*Also obtainable in Dutch, at 1/6 each.

1910-11	Union Acts of Parliament,	Bound,	Cloth	10	6
1912	,,	,,	½ Calf ..	7	6
1913	,,	,,	,, ..	7	6
1914	,,	,,	,, ,, ..	7	6
1915	,,	,,	,, ,, ..	7	6
1916	,,	,,	,, ,, ..	10	6

Separate Acts for recent years are also obtainable.

	Price. s. d.
Abstract of Debates of Council of Policy at the Cape, 1651-1687 (Theal)	2 6
ARCHIVES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (Leibbrandt):	
Defence of W. A. v. d. Stel, 1897, Bound ..	4 0
Do. do. do. Stitched	3 9
Journal, 1662-1670, Bound	5 6
Do. do. Stitched	4 6
Do. 1671-1676, Bound	5 6
Do. do. Stitched	4 6
Letters Received, Vol. 1, 1649-1662, Bound	4 6
Do. do. do. Stitched	3 0
Do. Vol. 2, 1649-1662, Bound	9 6
Do. do. do. Stitched	7 6
Do. do. 1695-1708, Bound	4 0
Letters Despatched, Vol. 1, 1652-1662, Bound	5 0
Do. do. do. Stitched	4 0
Do. do. Vol. 2, do. Bound	5 0
Do. do. do. Stitched	4 6
Do. do. Vol. 3, do. Stitched	7 6
Do. do. 1696-1708, Bound	4 6
Do. do. do. Stitched	3 6
Rambles through the Archives, 1688-1700 ..	2 6
Resolutiën (Dutch), 1652-1662, Bound ..	4 0
Do. do. do. Stitched ..	3 0
Riebeek's Journal, Part 2 (1656-1658), Bound	4 6
Do. Part 3 (1659-1662), Bound	5 0
Do. do. do. Stitched	4 0
Slachters Nek Papers, English	10 0
Do. do. Dutch	7 0
Requesten (Memorials) 1715-1806, Vol. 1A-E (Cloth)	6 6
Do. do. (Paper)	5 6
Do. do. Vol. 11.F-O (Cloth)	6 6
Do. do. (Paper)	5 0
Basutoland Records, Vol. 2, 1853-1861 (Theal	10 6
Do. Vol. 3, 1862-1868 (	
British Bechuanaland Proclamations, Vol. 1, 1885-1893 (Ward)	10 6
Do. do. do. Vol. 2, 1893-1898 (Ward)	10 6
British Kaffraria, Laws of, 1869	5 6
Cape Divisional Council, Report and Evidence of Commission on	7 6
Census Report, with Annexures, 1904	5 0
Commerce and Industries Commission, Minutes of Evidence of the (U.G. 9—'13)	6 6
Companies Act No. 25, 1892	1 6
Do. do. Amendment Act No. 8, 1906 ..	0 4
Customs Union Tariff .. .. .. nett	5 0
Do. do. do (Amendment)	0 3
De Extraordiniis Criminibus, 1893	1 0
Divisional Councils, Acts of Parliament relating to	3 6
Do. do. do. (Dutch)	3 6
Delimitation Commission, Report of the, 1913, English or Dutch .. .. each, nett	1 0
EDUCATION PAMPHLETS:	
1. Elementary School Course (English or Dutch), 1916 .. .. .. each	0 3
2. Training and Examination of Teachers, 1916	0 6
3. School Buildings 1907	0 6
4. Instructions regarding Attendance, Registration and Inspection 1909	0 3
7. Examination Papers, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915	0 6
9. Good Service Allowance and Pensions ..	
10. Manual Training for Girls (Needlework) 1911	0 9
13. Grants to Schools	
15. Kindergarten 1905	0 2

[redacted]

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

OF THE

NATAL NATIVES LAND COMMITTEE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General.

CAPE TOWN:
CAPE TIMES LIMITED, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS.
1918.

[U.G. 35—'18.]

B6.32629.950.6.18.
C.T.Ltd.—B2660.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WITNESSES.

Adams, C. F., Eshowe, 266.
Adamson, D. A., Paulpietersburg, 245.
Aiken, J., Port Shepstone, 5-6 and 160-167.
Allen, A. V., Ixopo, 170-171.
Allison, Thackeray, J., Weenen & Pietermaritzburg, 32 & 291-292.
Amos, S. T., Durban, 92 & 295-296.
Anderson, H. E. K., Ladysmith, 195-196.
Archibald, G., Umzinto, 157.
Arnold, J. W., Ixopo, 174.
Arnott, Col. W., Ixopo, 171.
Astrupp, John, Untunjambili, Krantzkop, 154.

Badenhorst, C., Eshowe, 284.
Bangizwe, Chief, Ixopo, 26.
Barker, H. M., Harding, 9.
Barnes, J. F. E., Pietermaritzburg, 85-87.
Baranov, S., Paulpietersburg, 82-83.
Barron, T. J., Weenen, 237.
Baxter, E. W. (Magistrate), Ndumo, 267.
Bernard, G., Umfolozi River, 257.
Bester, D., Ladysmith, 196.
Beukes, P., Vryheid, 234.
Bheku, Chief, Ladysmith, 235.
Bikelabani, Chief, Vryheid, 235.
Biyela, Chief Dumezweni, Eshowe, 111.
Blair, Trooper W., S.A.M.R., Nongoma, 270.
Blaker, H., J.P., Estcourt & Mooi River, 35-36, & 184.
Blamey, A. H. Garnet, Port Shepstone, 160.
Blamey, A., Umzinto, 2 & 155.
Bloy, A. R. C., Bulwer, 177.
Bloy, T. E., Bulwer, 177.
Boik, H., Loteni, 179.
Bolande, Estcourt, 188.
Borgnis, A. H., Port Shepstone, 161.
Boziana, Chief John, Stanger, 254.
Brecher, B. G., Vryheid, 76, 233-234 & 236.
Bridson, G. A. H., Vryheid, 71-73 & 232.
Broadbent, H. S., Durban, 298.
Brown, J., Port Shepstone & Harding, 9-10, & 169-170.
Brunner, E. A., Durban, 297.
Bubula, Chief, Richmond, 250.
Butelezi, Ephraim, Ladysmith, 37-38.

Calverley, W., Nkandhla, 271.
Carleton, Rev. W. Onslow, Missionary, Ifafa Reserve, Umzinto, 158-159.
Carter, A., Estcourt, 187.
Carter, Mrs. T., Loteni, 180.
Case, Dr. W., Port Shepstone & Harding, 9 & 165.
Cawood, H. B., Ladysmith, 35.
Cebeshana, Ixopo, 172.
Cele, B., Umzinto, 160.
Cele, J., Umzinto, 160.
Chadwick, J. C. K., Weenen, 239.
Chadwick, R. M. K., Estcourt & Weenen, 33 & 238.
Chandler, R. W., "Springfield," Babanango, 236-237.
Churchill, Sen. the Hon. F. O. F., Durban, 97-98 & 301.
Ciliza, Dabula, Ixopo, 28.
Clark, H. A., Stanger, 253.
Clayton, Hon. W. F., Umvoti, 152 & 254-255.
Clothier, Izaak, Harding, 169.
Clothier, Mark, Harding, 169.
Cochrane, W., Ladysmith, 196.
Cockburn, A. H., Richmond, 103 & 247.
Cole, James, Umzimkulu, 18.
Combrinck, G. J., Paulpietersburg, 244-245.
Combrink, Cornelius J., Paulpietersburg, 78-79.
Comrie, J., Bulwer, 175.
Comrie, R., Bulwer, 175-176.
Comrie, R. W., Bulwer, 177.
Comrie, W., J.P., M.P.C., Richmond & Ixopo, 103, 171 & 247.
Coventry, C. H. H., Bergville, 191-192.
Coventry, G. L., Bergville, 152-153 & 189.
Coventry, J. W., Bergville, 152-153.
Coventry, W., Bergville, 189-191.
Cronje (Widow), Dundee, 220.
Cronje, P., Dundee, 220.
Crookes, G., Umzinto, 156.
Crook, J. N., Newcastle, 46-47.
Crosly, James, Somkele, 115 & 154.
Cross, J. W., J.P., Dundee, 64-67.
Cruickshanks, R. (P.O. Makowe), Umzinto, 155.
Crute, A. J., J.P., Bulwer, 176.
Curry, E. V., Umzinto, 4.

Darlow, G. P., Port Shepstone, 4-5 & 161.
Dent, Rev. C. E., Nongoma, 112-114.
Dent, C. W., Empangeni, 259.
de Wet, W. P., Louwsburg, 229-230.
Dhlamini, C. P., Newcastle, 51-52.
Dhlamini, Walter Dundee, 217.
Dhlidhli, Chief, Bulwer, 177.
Dicks, Jas. A., Newcastle, 50.
Dikwayo, Chief, Port Shepstone, 162.
Dinana, Impendhle, 181.
Dowdall, B. V., Melmoth, 277-278.
Drummond, R. M., Solicitor, Estcourt, 188.
Dube, Rev. John, Durban, 181.
Dumezweni, Chief, Empangeni, 256.
Duncan, G. A., Nqutu, 222-223.
Dunkerton, E. B., Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Durban, 296-297.
Duminy, P., Vryheid, 234.
Dyson, J., Dundee, 214.

Eeksteen, J. A., Vryheid, 74-75.
Essery, H. E., "Riet Valley," Chaka's Kraal, 152 & 251.
Etheridge, C. M., Port Shepstone & Harding, 13-15 & 165-166.

Fannin, H. E. G., Ixopo, 19-20 & 170.
Farrar, F. A., Magistrate, Ixopo, 24-26.
Ferreira, J. J., Vryheid, 234-235.
FitzGerald, E. (late Chief Inspector of Native Loc. & Mission Res., Natal), Pietermaritzburg, 124-129.
Fleming, T., Impendhle, 181-182.
Flindt, L. Jean, Nqutu, 223.
Fly, J. W., J.P., Impendhle, 28 & 182.
Fouche, F. N., Nkandhla, 271-272.

Foxon, Lieut.-Col. F. E. (Chief Magistrate), Pietermaritzburg, 90-91 & 290-291.
Francis, G. E., Ixopo, 171.
Fraser, G. H., Krantzkop, 150-151.
Fraser, J., Solicitor, Pietermaritzburg, 291.
Fynn, Alfred, Harding, 168.
Fynn, Chief J. Duka, Harding, 169.
Fynn, Chief J. H., Harding, 169.
Fynn, Ned, Harding, 169.
Fynn, Chief Willie, Port Shepstone, 163.
Fynney, O., Magistrate, Nongoma, 270.

Gadupi, Chief, Nongoma, 163.
Gamalake, Chief, Newcastle, 51.
Garbutt, L. B., Eshowe, 283-284.
Garland, E. H., Ixopo, 174.
Garstang, A., Newcastle, 43-46 & 191-200.
Geogota, Chief, Ixopo, 172.
Gekota, Chief, Ixopo, 171-172.
Gibson, A. & J., Standerton, 298-299.
Gilson, H., Port Shepstone, 162.
Gobhozi, E., Umzinto, 159-160.
Gobhozi, N., Chief of Amahlongwa Mission Reserve, Umzinto, 158.
Gobotshana, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 227.
Gold, H. C., Bulwer, 177.
Gray, R., Estcourt, 187.
Greene, Col. the Hon. E. M., Pietermaritzburg, 87-90 & 285-288.
Griffin, E. B., Estcourt, 186-187.
Groom, W., Durban, 92.
Grove, J. J., Dundee, 210.
Grove, P. S., Vryheid, 75-76.
Gula, Chief E., Dundee, 70.
Gumede, W., Bergville, 192.
Guy, H. A., Vryheid, 73.

Hambrock, J. H. A., Paulpietersburg, 225-226.
Hancock, C. E., J.P., Ixopo, 21-22 & 170.
Harries, E., Richmond, 248.
Harrison, B. C., J.P., Mangusi, 269.
Harrison, E. T., Somkele, 264.
Hattingh, J. H., Louwsburg, 229.
Heard, J. C., Weenen, 240.
Henderson, A., Mooi River, 138.
Henkel, J. S., Conservator of Forests, Natal Pietermaritzburg, 119-122.
Henson, Dr., Impendhle, 29 & 182.
Henwood, S. E., Vryheid, 73 & 232.
Herbertson, R. G., Port Shepstone & Harding, 16-17 & 165.
Heslop, W. E. T., Dundee, 60-61.
Higgs, G. W., Eshowe & Empangeni, 109-111 & 255-266.
Hime, C., Magistrate, Bergville, 193.
Hlongwane, Chief David, Richmond, 250.
Houston, E. F., Harding, 168-170.
Hulett, A. S. L., Melmoth, 282.
Hulett, G. H., M.P.C., Chaka's Kraal & Stanger, 250-251 & 282.
Hutchinson, W. A., J.P., Port Shepstone & Harding, 9-10 & 168.
Hutton, M. J., "Tuinpoort," Manderston, 231.

Illing, A., Ladysmith, 196.
Isaacs, Pietermaritzburg, 291.

Jackson, A. E., Stanger, 251-252.
Jali, Aaron, Umzinto, 3.
James, H. J., Melmoth, 107.
James, S. T., Newcastle, 50.
Jemusi, Chief, Port Shepstone, 162.
Johnson, the Ven. Archdeacon, Nqutu, 221-222.
Johnstone, Senator the Hon. F. A. R., J.P., Newcastle, 40-42.
Jones, J. W. Harlech, Dundee, 71.

Kafula, Chief, Krantzkop, 244.
Kamanga, Chief, Durban, 102.
Kanyile, Umzinto, 158.
Karlsen, Rev. K. V., Port Shepstone, 6-7.
Kambi, Chief, representative of, Louwsburg, 231.
Kemp, J. J., Newcastle, 49.
Kinsman, L. C., Weenen, 238.
Kirkman, A. C., Ixopo, 20.
Kirkwood, J., Umfolozi, 264-265.
Koch, H. C., Pietermaritzburg, 289.
Koekemoer, J. M., Ensingabantu, 274.
Koekemoer, M., Louwsburg, 229.
Kolbe, H. H., Paulpietersburg, 227.
Kosa, Mehlwana, Eshowe, 111-112.
Kosler, G. L., Vryheid, 73.
Kothe, H. F., Pietermaritzburg, 84-85.
Kumalo, Rev. A., Ladysmith, 37.
Kumalo, Esau, Newcastle, 205 & 216.
Kumalo, M., Umzinto, 158.
Kumalo, Robert, Newcastle, 204.
Kuzwayo, Mbiya, Melmoth, 108-109.

Laas, C. J. H., Nqutu, 220.
Labuschagne, C. T., Paulpietersburg, 226.
Labuschagne, J. H., Paulpietersburg, 226-227.
Laduma, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91 & 293.
Land Board Meeting (report), Durban, 299-309.
Laurens, B., Impendhle, 182.
Laurens, C. J., Impendhle & Loteni, 28 & 179.
Laurens, P., Impendhle, 29.
Lehmann, J., Ndumo, 267-268.
le Roux, A., Nkandhla, 272.
Lester, R. S. Empangeni, 255-256.
L'Estrange, W., J.P., "Fawn Leas," Natal, 151-152 & 291.
Lewis, F. J., Surveyor-General, Natal, Pietermaritzburg, 117-119.
Lindsay, C. R., Ensingabantu, 275.
Lipscomb, Dr. N., Paulpietersburg, 79.
Lloyd, C. B., Mooi River, 185.
Lolaka, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91.
Lombaard, A. C., "Solar Cliffs," Bergville, 153 & 192.
Lombaard, H. S., Bergville, 191.
Louw, D. J., Louwsburg, 229.
Lugg, Port Shepstone, 161.
Lugugu, Weenen, 240.
Luhlongwana, Chief Daniel, Richmond, 104.
Lungalele, Induna, Impendhle, 181.
Lutuli, Chief Martin, Durban, 101-102.

Mabaso, Izaak, Newcastle, 52 & 203-204.
Mabaso, J., Umzinto, 158.
Maboko, Chief, representative of, Louwsburg, 230.
Macaleni, Dundee, 70.

Macibana, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 228.
Mackay, G. R., Amatikulu, 257.
Madhlulana, Estcourt, 188-189.
Madopolo, Ixopo, 173.
Maduna, J., Newcastle, 205.
Mafahla, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Mafahleni, Chief, Impendhle, 31 & 181.
Mogebe, Headman, Ixopo, 26.
Magidigidi, Chief, Ixopo, 172.
Mahaqwa, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91.
Majolo, Qalizwe, Policeman, Ixopo, 28.
Makako, Chief, representative of, Louwsburg, 231.
Makamba, Chief, Ixopo, 26.
Makati, Chief, Stanger, 254.
Makatini, N., Umzinto, 158.
Makatini, V., Umzinto, 158.
Makhwugana, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Makuzwana, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Malumbu, Chief, Stanger, 253-254.
Mandada, Ixopo, 172.
Mandadhla, Chief, Ixopo, 26 & 172.
Mangisi, Estcourt, 189.
Manuell, T., Dundee, 63-64 & 211.
Manxele, Albert, Paulpietersburg, 82 & 228
Mapovela, Chief, Louwsburg, 230.
Mapstone, W. J., Richmond, 247-248.
Maritz, A. J. S., Magistrate, Lower Tugela Division, Stanger, 253.
Masubela, Chief, Estcourt, 188.
Marwick, John, Ixopo & Richmond, 20-21, 102-103 & 248.
Masondo, Samuel, Paulpietersburg, 81-82.
Masson, Solicitor, Pietermaritzburg, 288-289.
Matshobongwana, Irvine, Newcastle, 205.
Maxibana, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 82.
Mayne, R., Port Shepstone, 16-17.
Mabango, Chief, Dundee, 70.
Mabanezizwe, Louwsburg, 230-231.
Mbela, James, Umzinto, 3.
Mbhekwe, Chief, Ladysmith, 38-39.
Mbileni, Port Shepstone, 163.
Mbobo, Port Shepstone, 163.
Mbogotwa, Weenen, 241.
Mbojana, Umzinto, 3.
Mbongweni, Chief, Lower Umzimkulu, 164.
Mbulawe, Chief, Bergville, 192.
Mcamu, George, Newcastle, 53 & 204.
McCue, J. H., Pietermaritzburg, 257.
McIntosh, R. M., Port Shepstone, 161.
McKenzie, C. G., Asst. Magistrate, Umzinto, 155-156.
McKenzie, G. C., Chairman of Land Board, Durban, 299.
McKenzie (Senr.), J. L., Richmond, 249.
McLean, J. W., Loteni, 179-180.
Meli, Port Shepstone, 162.
Mellick, R., Port Shepstone, 4 & 161.
Mellish, Empangeni, 256.
Meyer, C. M., Dundee, 63.
Mgoma, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91.
Mgomo, Chief Sinxi, Eshowe, 111.
Mgwaqo, Chief, Weenen, 241.
Mhlangu, Jiyeza, Impendhle, 31.
Mhlola, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91 & 293.
Mhlumela, Ixopo, 27.
Miller, J. H. K., Estcourt, 187.
Miller, R. S., Newcastle, 50.
Mini, Chief Stephen, Durban, 98-99.
Mjila, Chief, Bulwer, 177.
Mkezeni, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 228.
Mkuzangwe, Chief: representative of, Krantzkop, 244.
Mkwantshi, Chief, Durban, 102.
Mncube, S., Dundee, 216-217.
Mnyaiza, Chief, Vryheid, 235.
Mlife, N., Dundee, 217.
Moe, George, Pietermaritzburg, 83-84 & 288.
Molife, Albert, Impendhle, 31-32 & 180-181.
Molife, David, Bulwer, 178.
Moor, Sir F., Estcourt, 187.
Morley, John, Durban, 91-92 & 294.
Morrel, E. B., Loteni, 178.
Mqolombeni, Chief, Richmond, 104 & 249.
Mququka, Chief, Richmond, 249.
Msimang, Albert, Driefontein, Klip River, 194.
Msimang, Ezra, Dundee & Driefontein, 68-69 & 184.
Msimang, Rev. Sebastian, Dundee, 67-68 & 217-218.
Msiwakeni, Chief, 250.
Myane, Induna, Port Shepstone, 162.
Mskofini, Chief, Ixopo, 26 & 173.
Mtaka, Jeremiah, Ixopo, 27.
Mtamo, Chief, Krantzkop, 243.
Mtembu, Charlie, Paulpietersburg, 82.
Mtembu, James, Ixopo, 26 & 172.
Mtembu, Philip, Newcastle, 50-51 & 203.
Mtimkulu, William W., Dundee, 69 & 217.
Mtombeni, P., Newcastle, 205.
Mtshigila, Chief, Louwsburg, 230.
Mtshutulwana, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 228.
Muller, J. F., J.P., M.P.C., Melmoth, 108.
Mxaba, George, Stanger, 254.
Myburgh, General M. W., J.P., M.L.A., Paulpietersburg, 79-81.
Mzolo, Sijuluka, Eshowe, 112.

Ndaweni, L., Driefontein, 194.
Ndayisana, Induna, Estcourt, 188.
Ndhlovu, Chief, Stanger, 254.
Ndhlovu, R., Newcastle, 205 .
Ndhlovu, W. W., Vryheid, 66-67 & 235.
Ndimande, Joseph, Newcastle, 53 & 206.
Nel, J. P., Krantzkop, 243.
Newton, A. F. H., Port Shepstone & Harding, 8 & 167.
Ngidi, Sikuni, Impendhle, 31.
Ngomayo, Chief, Weenen, 240.
Ngomezulu, Pietermaritzburg, 292-293.
Ngululbe, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 228.
Ngubo, Jakobe, Umzinto, 160.
Ngwenya, Elias, Dundee, 215.
Ngwenya, Philip, Dundee, 68 & 215-216.
Nienaber, P. C., Nqutu, 220.
Nieuwenhuizen, H. J., Newcastle, 47-48 & 202.
Nkabane, Chief, Newcastle, 63-64 & 206.
Nkanini, Headman, Ixopo, 27.
Nkantini, Chief, Eshowe, 111.
Nkosi, Simon, Newcastle, 205.
Nkwaleni Farmers' Report, 280-281.
Nkwali, Ixopo, 172 & 173.
Nocaga, Chief, Weenen, 241.

Nomyatuli, Chief, Port Shepstone, 162-163.
Northern, E., Weenen, 239-240.
Nortje, J. P., Paulpietersburg, 79 & 225.
Nqodi, Chief, Mahlabatini, 112.
Nuss, F. H., Krantzkop, 243.
Ntaba, Philip, Ixopo, 26-27.
Mtimboli, Lower Umzimkulu, 161.
Ntshidi, Ixopo, 172.
Ntshinga, M. Chief, Umzinto, 158.
Ntshipela, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Ntuli, M., Umzinto, 162.
Ntuli, S., Umzinto, 162.
Nutman, T. S., Port Shepstone, 7-8.
Nxamana, M., Umzinto, 158.
Nxumalo, Gaqu, Dundee, 216.
Nxumalo, Philemon, Newcastle, 54 & 205-206.
Nyokane, Ixopo, 173.
Nyoniyezwe, Chief, Krantzkop, 244.

O'Brien, W. J., Pietermaritzburg, 289.
Odendaal, J. C., Estcourt, 186.
Ogle, John, Harding, 169.
Ogle, Mpofu, Umzinto, 2-3.
Oosthuis, J. J., Harding, 8 & 165.
Ortlepp, W. J., Melmoth, 106.
Oscroft, Rev. L. E., Nkandhla, 105-106.
Owen, T. M., President, Bergville Farmers' Association, 193.

Palmer, F. G., Impendhle, 182.
Parks, J., Newcastle, 200.
Payn, W. P., Richmond, 246-247.
Pearson, J. V., Stanger, 251.
Plowman, G. T., Pietermaritzburg, 285.
Pollock, J. C., Nqutu, 220-221.
Posela, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Potgieter, J. H., Newcastle, 50.
Potgieter, J. T., Nqutu, 222.
Potgieter, K., Louwsburg, 229.
Prentice, A. G., J.P., Port Shepstone & Harding, 11-12 & 167-168.
Pretorius, A. L., Vryheid, 234.

Qomintaba, Ixopo, 27-28.

Randles, W. G., Weenen, 32-33.
Raw, C., Port Shepstone, 8-9.
Reid, Tom, Nongoma, 115-117.
Reilly-James, Newcastle, 50.
Rena, Umsheshwa, Impendhle, 31.
Rethman, Port Shepstone, 162.
Richards, G., Mooi River, 133-134.
Riddell, Mrs. Scott-, Harding, 165-166.
Roberts, C. W., Impendhle, 182.
Robertson, J. M., Acting Magistrate, Ubombo, 265-266.
Ross, Durban, 229, 230.
Robins, S. N., Nkandhla, 104 & 273-274.
Rottcher, O., Weenen, 237-238.
Rouillard, R., Vryheid, 233-234.
Royle, J. C., Port Shepstone, 161-162.
Rudolph, G. M., Estcourt, 186.
Rudolph, J. H., Paulpietersburg, 223-224.
Ryley, H., Dundee, 54-66 & 206.

Sabaso, J., Umzinto, 157-158.
Sabela, U., Umzinto, 158.
Samuelson, R. C., Durban, 92-97.
Saunders, Sir C., K.C.M.G., Melmoth, 279-280.
Saville, F., Dundee, 211-215.
Scholield, Senator the Hon. J., J.P., Ixopo, 22-24 & 28.
Scholtz, J. A., Louwsburg, Ngotshe, 228.
Schroenn, F., 85.
Schwikkard, Otto, Newcastle, 42-43 & 197-199.
Sebegula, Ixopo, 26.
Shedlock, A. B., Melmoth, 278.
Sibeki, E., Dundee, 215.
Sibhamu, Chief, Bulwer, 177.
Sidala, Chief, Richmond, 250.
Sidange, Chief, Krantzkop, 244.
Siduma, Pietermaritzburg, 91 & 293.
Silosibi, Chief, Pietermaritzburg, 91.
Simpson, J. A., Port Shepstone, 9.
Sinclair, J. C., Port Shepstone & Harding, 9 & 165.
Sipungi, Stanger, 254.
Sivumo, Chief, Louwsburg, 231.
Smith, H. C., Secretary of Planters' Association, Stanger, 252-253.
Sobantu, Chief, representative of, Krantzkop, 244-245.
Sompenjana, Estcourt, 188.
Sondeza, J., Driefontein, 193.
Sparks, D., Ladysmith, 35-37 & 29.
Speirs, C. A., Impendhle, 182-183.
Spies, A. J., Dundee, 63-66 & 209.
Stafford, G. S., J.P., Bulwer, 176.
Steenkamp, J. H., Vryheid, 234.
Stein, Walter, Dundee & Newcastle, 54-58, 201-202 & 207.
Stevens, T. G. B., Ladysmith, 37, 194-195 & 197.
Stewart, J. W., Bergville, 191.
Stocken, W. A., Durban, 92 & 295.
Stone, Alex., Secretary, Loteni & Inzinga Farmers' Assoc., Loteni, 178-179.
Stone, A. K., Impendhle, 28.
Stone, R. C., Bulwer, 177.
Stuart, P. A., Acting Chief Inspector of Locations, Pietermaritzburg, 122-124.
Sutton, H., Ensingabantu, 273.
Sykes, Durban, 297-298.
Symmonds, A. W., Melmoth, 106 & 278.

Tandy, D. W. H., Dundee, 5-60 & 208-209.
Taylor, Reg. A., Eshowe & Empangeni, 109-111 & 255-256.
Taylor, P. H., Mayor of Maritzburg, Pietermaritzburg, 289.
Tende, Chief, Bulwer, 178.
Thompson, G., Newcastle, 48.
Thompson, W., Umzinto, 1 & 156.
Titi, Ixopo, 172.
Titlestad, E., Nkandhla, 105 & 274-277.
Tolmer, H., Harding, 8 & 164-165.
Tranmer, A., Krantzkop, 244-246.
Tootell, D., Impendhle, 182.
Tshonkweni, Chief, Umzinto, 3.
Tshutshutshu, Chief, Krantzkop, 244.
Turnbull, T. D., Umzinto, 155.

Uhali, Chief, Vryheid, 235.
Ukaluba, Louwsburg, 231.
Umseyana, Chief, Empangeni, 256-257.

Umzimkulu, Owners, Port Shepstone, 17.
Upumpela, Chief, Stanger, 254.
Uys, C. J., Newcastle, 202-203.
Uys, D. C., Dundee, 61-62 & 210-211.

Vanderplank, J. P. P., Newcastle, 204-205.
Vanderplank, W. A., Eshowe, 282.
van der Schyff, H. B., Nkandhla, 272.
van der Schyff, T., Nkandhla, 271.
van de Venter, G., Vryheid, 232.
van Rooyen, C. P. F., "Brotherton," Bergville, 153 & 191 & 278.
van Rooyen, F. E., Krantzkop, 242-243.
van Rooyen, G. T., Krantzkop, 242.
van Rooyen, I. M., Vryheid, 74.
van Rooyen, sen., J. J., Weenen, 239.
van Vuuren, J. J., Vryheid, 75.
Vermaak, P. R., Dundee, 207-208.
Vusindhlu, Chief, Paulpietersburg, 81 & 227.
Vuta, Chief, Estcourt, 188.

Walker, A. H., Ixopo, 18-19.
Walters, Dr. the Rev. F. W., Nongoma, 114.
Walton, G., Bulwer, 177.
Warren, E., Director Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, 294.
Watson, Durban, 299.
Wayne, G. H., Mayville, 259.
Webb, J., Ixopo, 175.
Wessels, P. J., Paulpietersburg, 224.
Wheelwright, C. A., Chief Native Commissioner Natal, Pietermaritzburg, 130-150.
Wigget, sen., J., Vryheid, 73-74 & 78.
Wildish, G. H., Eshowe, 284-285.
Wilkinson, H. T., Impendhle, 181.
Wilkinson, W., Bulwer, 177.
Willcox, Rev. W. C., Estcourt, 187-188.
Winter, Senator the Hon. H. D., Estcourt, 33-34 & 186.
Wood, Dr., Municipality, 289.
Wood, G. J., Dundee, 62-63 & 209-210.
Woods, W. S., Port Shepstone, 162.
Woolatt, S. B., Mooi River, 184-185.
Worthington, T. H., Solicitor, Dundee, 218-219.

Zaba, M., Umzinto, 158.
Zidunge, Chief, Richmond, 250.
Zuga, Amos, Newcastle, 54.
Zuma, Movuka, Impendhle, 30-31.
Zungu, Bili, Umzinto, 160.
Zululand Planters' Report, 260-263.
Zwane, N., Dundee, 217.

SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

NATIVES' LAND COMMITTEE (NATAL PROVINCE).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Report of Evidence taken at Umzinto, Natal, on 29th September, 1917.

Mr. W. THOMPSON.] I am speaking on behalf of the Alexandra County Agricultural Society. We recommend that the farm "Quembe" be excluded from the alternative proposition we made. Our reason for this is that it is very valuable land and is occupied by a white man at the present time.

There is a lot of valuable land for natives in the Crown Lands. Further, I think what we ought to do is to go in for less of this segregation. What we should cater for is to induce the natives to get small areas near large centres, such as Kynoch's, Durban and Maritzburg. Give them a quarter of an acre lots, for which they pay rent, and they would look at this more for their advancement than by being put in large areas. That is the general opinon—that it would do far more for them than by putting them in large areas.

Our idea is that the Amahlongwa Mission Reserve is a very fine area for Europeans and that sugar could be grown there successfully. The same applies to the Ifafa Mission Reserve and the general opinion of the Society is that it should not be cut up in large blocks—anything from two to three hundred acres would be quite ample for one man and would give a very fine return—25 to 30 tons per acre. We would be prepared to give them a large tract of country further back.

As far as No. 3 Location is concerned, I think that this should revert. The main road and the railway line run right through it and it is convenient for delivering milk, cream, pigs, etc. Farms of four or five hundred acres would be a very fine thing there.

Mr. Marwick.] I take it, Mr. Thompson, your recommendation about the provision of land in labour centres would not be a general scheme applicable to all the natives in the country, because of the limited number which could only be employed for the present; you do not mean that you would transfer more than sufficient natives for the labour requirements?

Mr. Thompson.] We would take volunteers. They would gradually come away from the Mission Stations, especially the educated class. I would not recommend acre blocks; one-quarter acre blocks are ample.

Mr. Marwick.] It would provide for a great number of natives. We employ 25,000 natives in Durban and a large number of them live on the premises of their employers.

Mr. Thompson.] Well, if 10,000 took up this it would entail a large sum of money. Our idea is that in giving them large tracts of country it is detrimental to the native. They should be encouraged to go to the large centres of labour, where they could learn the dignity of labour.

The farms were more occupied than they were before. Our recommendation was to include "Maqikizana," but they have put a road right through. The question is whether it is a payable farm for Europeans to live on and whether it would not be better to give that man other land and remove him.

Now, as regards Area No. 17, a lot of these places are suitable for Europeans, and we would recommend it (Area No. 17) be a neutral area.

With reference to Area No. 15, the recommendation stands, except as regards the exclusion of "Pilgrim" and "Quembe." That is the alternative recommendation, which was that the Amahlongwa, Ifafa and Umtwalumi Mission Reserves revert to Europeans, as well as Location No. 3.

I do not think the natives should expect so much consideration after the way they have treated King and country.

This recommendation is to include in Native Area "Saracen," "Carrig" and "Broadvale," adjoining location, leaving out "Pilgrim" and "Quembe."

By Mr. Chapman.] On farms natives are doing more in the way of cultivation, but they are doing less on locations, on account of having no cattle to work with. On the farms they own themselves they are doing nothing.

Yes, the natives are increasing very much indeed, but I think there is a good deal of disease amongt them.

There is none of that land in the two areas which is unsuitable for native occupation, but it is all suited for Europeans—at least, a good deal of it. Also in the Locations there is splendid land for Europeans.

By Mr. Marwick.] Yes, natives are re-stocking very fast, but the country is capable of carrying much more stock on account of the dipping facilities. They show no desire to give up pastoral pursuits. I think it is natural with all Kafirs to be pastoralists; they are more than agriculturalists. You find that with all natives—that cattle are their bank. All these Crown Lands on the Umkomaas are very fine for cattle.

Mr. A. BLAMEY.] I am in favour of Area No. 17 becoming a neutral area. We have lived there over 20 years. The farms are mostly fenced and have dipping tanks. I have pure bred sheep there and good stock. The natives are too lazy to cultivate the land; they won't cultivate enough for themselves. They come in and buy from us and borrow the money.

NATIVE EVIDENCE.

"MPOFU" OGLE.] I reside in Location No. 1. We have met together, but we have not come to any particular agreement. The natives wish to know the reason for their being separated from the white people. What has brought it about? The natives do not wish for this separation. They do not understand which lands are to be demarcated. The natives look to the whites as their help, especially in times of famine, and they do not know whether the Government intend to give them the lean land only.

Mr. Marwick.] Ask Ogle whether he is aware of the boundaries of the recommended areas.

Ogle.] No, I do not know them, Sir. (It is stated that the boundaries of the recommended areas have been carefully explained and are understood by the assembly).

Mr. Marwick.] Would they buy land if they had the chance?

Ogle.] We do not understand about the buying of land.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it not a fact that a large number of natives have already purchased and own land at present?

Ogle.] Yes, there are a lot, but they are not looked upon with favour. They are hated by those who have no land.

Mr. Chapman.] And those who have purchased land, do they charge rent from their native tenants?

Ogle.] Some get hut tax and some take rent in beer.

Mr. Chapman.] Have those who own farms improved them with fencing, cultivation, etc.?

Ogle.] Some, but very few, go in for improving their land. Most of them only farm the natives for the sake of beer.

Mr. Marwick.] From your knowledge of the extent to which these locations are occupied are you able to say whether there is room for more, or are they fully occupied?

Ogle.] I cannot answer that question, because if a native has a kraal he will point out to a distance of two miles away and say it is all his land, and, further, the Court upholds him.

Mr. Marwick.] If that were not so I assume there would be room for other natives in the Locations?

Ogle.] Yes, there would be sufficient room for more. Some kraals would agree to others coming near them, but others would not. Some Locations are occupied just as the town of Umzinto is occupied.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you know the conditions which pertain in the Transkei?

Ogle.] I know a little, but not much. I know the lands have been surveyed and arable land laid off for each kraal, also that there are village sites above the arable land and grazing land at the back.

Mr. Chapman.] In your opinion would that system find favour amongst the natives in some of the Locations which lend themselves to that particular form or cutting up?

Ogle.] I doubt whether that system of settlement would be suitable for this country because of the large number of natives there are here and the small amount of land available. My experience of the Cape Colony is that very large areas are available there.

Mr. Chapman.] But if that system were applied to some of the Locations it would make room for natives who wished to enter them from farms?

Ogle.] I do not think I can answer that question. I am afraid that I might involve myself.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there not a large amount of waste land at present in Locations on account of gardens being scattered about the country so that the intervening spaces cannot be used?

Ogle.] Yes, I understand that system would be advantageous, but it could not be so unless there were Europeans to supervise it. I know that in the Cape Colony there are Europeans to do it.

Mr. Chapman.] That is the policy of the Government—to introduce European supervision here.

Ogle.] If it is under the best arrangement possible, I think the land available here would be less than sufficient, because there are a large number of natives to-day who are without fields owing to the greed of others in claiming a larger amount of land than they are entitled to.

The Chairman.] But still it would relieve matters to some extent?

Ogle.] The *onus* would then be upon me for having suggested a method of living; the people would point to me as the author of it. The population increases, but the land does not increase. These matters would not be discussed but for the fact that the natives have increased so much. The hope of the natives to-day is that the Government would point out additional land over and above what they already have. I am of opinion that the desire of the natives is rather to buy wives than to buy land.

AARON JALI (representing Chief JACK).—We find it a big question that you come to talk about—the separating of natives from white people. We do not understand it at all, because we have grown up with the whites and lived amongst them all our lives. So we find it very hard to understand why we should be separated. Our chief grievance is that there are some Chiefs who have not enough locations to place their people on. That is what we chiefly want the Government to point out for us—more Locations. There are some chiefs who have very poor ground—mostly stones—and we look to the heads to see if they cannot give us better ground where we can get crops. This demarcation of the land and separation makes us very afraid. It makes us think that perhaps something is going to happen which we do not know or understand.

I live on the Ifafa Mission Reserve. I have lived there a long time.

Chief TSHONKWENI: We do not quite understand this, as the white people seem to have bought up a good deal of the land. If a native happens to live on a white man's farm he cannot go on to Crown Lands without paying £2, and even if willing they are not allowed; this we cannot understand. It would be much better if the Government did not separate us from the white people. We cannot understand it, because the natives are gradually being pushed off these farms and they have nowhere to go. Those are the people we look to protect us and they are the ones who are pushing us off. I have practically lost all my tribe through the land being bought up all around me.

I do not understand where the natives will be able to get farms, because the white people seem to have bought them all up. Cattle we have, but we have no grazing grounds for them. The farm fences cut right through the grazing grounds we used to have and are near to the kraals.

JAMES MBELA: We do not understand. We are quite in the dark about this question of separation. We do not know where it has sprung from. We would like the land pointed out and explained to us that we are to have, so that we may understand it properly. The Mission Reserves, Locations and Crown Lands are right in amongst farms. As regards cattle, we have no grazing, and the kraals are very thick now, because the natives are gradually leaving the farms and crowding on to the Reserves and Locations. We have nowhere to put those people who are gradually leaving the farms.

MBOJANA, Chief of the Amahlongwa Mission Reserve: The Government knows of our grievances; we have expressed them to-day. We are the Government's children, but there are some who are a little above us now because they have bought land of their own. We leave it to the Government to decide for us, because they know better than we do. We would like the Government to decide and then point out what they have done for us. We would then thank the Government, whose children we are. How can we children come and dictate a policy? Government has to decide whether we are to be separated from the whites.

Chief Tshonkweni.] The important thing, to my mind, is that Chiefs should each be given a distinct area within which they could receive natives who are dispossessed of tenure on European farms. If that were done it would conduce to a much more satisfactory order of settlement. The most unsatisfactory feature to-day is that I am not in a position to receive a man. In regard to natives who are dispossessed of tenure, it has become a serious matter to provide places for them. We know that the Government is proverbially slow and we would not venture to ask them to hurry, but we do urge that the matter has become a very serious one.

Mr. Chapman.] I understand that these recommendations were made with the intention of providing areas for chiefs and others who are ejected from European farms.

Chief Tshonkweni.] Yes, I understand that, but the Government is very slow.

Mr. Chapman.] The alteration of the system under which Europeans and natives live is a large matter and cannot be hurried.

Aaron Jali.] I may say, speaking on behalf of the residents of the Ifafa Mission Reserve that we have already asked the Chief Native Commissioner in Maritzburg whether the Transkeian system could not be applied to the Reserve. It is our earnest wish that it should be, as we want to work. We would welcome any such system, providing it has due regard to those who have already effected improvements. We would feel it a grievance if a man who has effected improvements were to be dispossessed of his particular holding and sent to another.

COPY.

Umsinsini Farm and Store,
Umtwalumi, 27 September, 1917.

To the Natal Natives Land Committee,
Umzinto.

Gentlemen,—In reference to the notice of a meeting of the above at Umzinto on Saturday, I regret being unable to attend in person but should like my request that my farm Lot C. 11, C. 7 and T. 3, Alexandra County, should be in the white area. Messrs. Evans and Chapman called here some months since and said there was every possibility of this being done and I trust that such is the decision. This farm consists of 2,000 acres with £4,000 worth improvements. The farms adjoining me are in the white area.

Again regretting my inability to attend and trusting you will see favourably with me,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. V. CURRY.

Report of Evidence taken at Port Shepstone, Natal, on 2nd October, 1917.

Mr. R. MELLICK.] As far as our farm is concerned, that is "Og," our chief reason for coming in was because we thought we should be prevented from selling. I have heard lately that we could sell if we required to do so, but as the law of 1913 reads we should be unable to sell except to a native. It would be ridiculous to expect a native to buy a place like that. We have a large quantity of fruit on the farm, which no native required. The farm is 381 acres in extent. We gave evidence here last time and it is hardly necessary for us to repeat ourselves. Our chief reason in coming here is to find out if we could sell the property if we wish to do so.

By Mr. Chapman.] We could get a European to buy if we knew he could sell again. If a European knows he is in a native area he would know he would not be able to part with it.

We are placed in a very peculiar position. We wish to improve our farm and continue to improve it. At the same time that is costing money. Supposing that law comes into force, will the Government pay us the amount of money we have expended on the farm, or will they pay us the value of the land only? Take bananas—an acre of good bananas is worth £100 to-day.

According to the Bill of 1913 we do not know exactly where we are. It is like working a dead horse off. We are only giving our views as far as we are concerned.

By the Chairman.] Yes, we should like to sell if we are able to do so. We have had enquiries.

By Mr. Chapman.] As far as we are concerned this indefinite business may go on for years and years. If the Government is going to restrict us from selling our land will they give us relief?

The Chairman.] It is to be hoped they do, but we cannot say definitely.

Mr. Mellick.] In the Government Act there is nothing about paying people for the expenses incurred on their land and also for their buildings. As far as I can see they say "Well, the upset price of your land is 10s. an acre: you must take it." Of course, I do not say they will do that, but it would be better if the Government made a definite stipulation on that point.

Mr. G. P. DARLOW.] I would like to know what the neutral areas really are. (He is informed).

Therefore, naturally we would like to be in that neutral area, if possible. We would rather be in it than in a native area. Next to neutral areas, we would like Government to compensate us, otherwise we must protest against the whole transaction. We are in a native occupied area and that is all the more reason why the Government should expropriate us.

Mr. Chapman.] Are your neighbours beneficially occupying those farms they occupy.

Mr. Darlow.] Of course, beneficial occupation is hard to define. They make lots of beer and noise. One man has a bit of fencing, but they have no dips of their own. They dip in the location dip. We have not a tank on our farm. We are not stock farmers; we are fruit farmers. We dip our cattle in the location dip. When the matter is finally settled we should have to build a dip and would do so. We have just

put up a paddock at the cost of £50 and we grudged the money. It is all very well to say you can sell little patches of ground to natives, but you would be left with the rubbish. We must sell the lot, or none.

It is perfectly healthy there. There is some very fine country and it is a pity the natives have so much land there. Some of the finest farms in the whole district are there and are not used except for squatting, and there are a few breweries there.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there are a lot of huts on these farms. I believe the old hands pay nothing. The land was bought on a co-operative system. The new-comers pay as they go on the place. On some farms they pay £2 a hut. In the majority of cases they do nothing; it might be a location for all they do.

By Mr. Marwick.] Yes, they have greatly increased as far as numbers are concerned. At the same time, bar the river strip, there is a great tract of country hardly occupied at all. They have followed the bush and cut that down.

By the Chairman.] Yes, they use the tops of the hills for grazing their cattle. That location would hold very many more if they were made to cultivate their land. They come to me and buy a few potatoes and I tell them what to do to get a crop, but they never do any good. They can easily go back, but not forward.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, they go away to industrial centres to work. A lot stay and don't come back again. The only way we can get over the labour difficulty is to have a large number on our books and we manage to get 8 or 10 to work. Otherwise they always get some excuse. Undoubtedly they go to industrial centres, because they get better pay and better food and they see things. It is a great attraction to the youngsters. Now, you can offer a youngster 10s. or 15s., but very shortly he is off to town.

That applies mostly to the younger members of the family, but the older ones go away a lot. Sugar cultivation has also made it difficult to get labour; they like working in gangs.

I should say they are growing just about the same amount of food as previously. They have some very fine land. Years ago the valley was thickly bushed, but it has come down to scattered little bits now.

Mr. J. AIKEN.] I appeared before you previously to protest against my two farms being included in the native area. I have entered a protest, but I do not know what action has been taken on it.

Mr. Chapman.] There seems to be a doubt about "West Slopes." It appears to have been put in in error.

Mr. Aiken.] If the position is still the same, I have nothing more to say. The only thing we are afraid of is that the Government, if they wish to expropriate the farm may offer the value of the land.

The Chairman.] Is it all in sugar?

Mr. Aiken.] No, I am going in for stock. They were sold as one farm.

Mr. Chapman.] What would you describe the land in that recommended native area as being particularly fitted for?

Mr. Aiken.] It is all good land. I cannot say I know all the land. There is very good land on "Buffalo Bill," towards the river. All those farms are admirable stock farms. Take that farm "West Slopes"—I have a portion leased to Indians, who are raising over 20 muids to the acre. All that land there contains a great deal of lime, which makes it good for stock.

As regards the locations, my idea is, especially since I went home, that they should be taken in hand and cut up. I firmly believe myself that if you were to parcel out farms to natives that they would make good use of them. I would not give them free title, but make it dependent on their behaviour. If you cut up locations they would not want to buy.

The Chairman.] How much land do you think would be enough for a native to make a living?

Mr. Aiken.] Well, if a white man can live on 2½ acres and make a living, surely a native can. I say give the native double that; give him 5 acres per hut. You won't get a woman anywhere who will cultivate more than one acre. They take up all the farm with their little patches of "madumbies" and mealies.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I think 5 acres of arable land per hut would be sufficient. That would not include commonage. They have only one woman to a hut. Give them three acres per hut as commonage; it is only a rough estimate. I think these locations work out at about 25 acres per hut in this Division. I have lived amongst natives all my life and I am quite sure it would be a good thing to encourage the man in some way by giving him a right to the land—not under a freehold title, as he might be a waster.

The Chairman.] But if he turned out a waster, would not he have to sell?

Mr. Aiken.] No, I would not allow a man to sell. He might hand it down. I should say the Government would not allow natives to buy or sell; the land would remain the property of the Government.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, I have no desire to sell at present. My son is actually living on the land. I live down here near the Railway.

Yes, I have a dipping tank and homestead on the one farm. "West Slopes" is not a farm you can cultivate, but it does well for stock. The dipping tank has quite reformed things down here. At one time we could never raise a calf; now we never lose any.

Revd. K. V. KARLSEN (of the Swedish Mission).] I have not thought very much about this matter. I really came in to listen. I am a Missionary, and having a Location round about me, I know all the people. My Mission is in Port Shepstone—the Swedish Zulu Mission and we have outstations in the country. I used to be out in Mhlalo's Location and also in Willie Fynn's a good deal. I heard Mr. Aiken's suggestion about giving the natives a little piece of land, like 5 acres or so. Of course, there are small and big families, and some of those educated Christian people need more. They can work more, and I think a man who can work more would need to have more. I know on the other side of Maritzburg there are educated natives who plant up to 15 or 20 acres. Those on the Mission Station cultivate about 5 acres, so where would they graze their stock then?

The Chairman.] They would have to rent land from others.

Revd. Karlsen.] I am afraid that would not work.

Mr. Chapman.] Which of these areas would lend itself best to cutting up under a closer settlement scheme?

Revd. Karlsen.] Well, I should say up about Mehlomnyama would be a very fine place. I think No. 6 Location would be a fine place for it, also round about Marburg. No. 5 Location would be a good place, too, to cut up. I think it would be more suitable than up at Mehlomnyama. The ground is very good, and if that was cut up they could get a very nice grazing place on the top, on this side of Murchison. No. 5 is not thickly populated round Marburg on this side. If it was cut up into small allotments it would carry a much larger population than it does to-day. The natives would appreciate it; many speak about it to-day, especially those who have a little education—they want it. The chiefs can do practically what they want; we have seen so much of it: there comes a man who wants to be on the Location, but the Chief says he wants some beer from the people if he gives them a place. They say "We don't make beer; we don't like it"; and then he gives the land to other people who do. If you cut up the Locations and have closer settlement I am sure you will have a lot of those with education there at once. They have asked me several times if I thought it was possible for them to do so under the Land Act.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, it is very much our aim to teach methods of agriculture. We have tried for years. We tried to start at the Umhlangeni; we asked for 200 acres to start a proper industrial work, but we could not get it. I think if you have closer settlement you should have someone in the midst teaching them agriculture. When we think of the amount of rich, good ground here in this country and nothing done in that way, they ought to be taught agriculture. I think the natives ought to be taught first thing to work the ground and they would then be much better people. I think they would also cultivate their brain then and think of better things. We want this very much as missionaries, because we know they are better if they do it. I think the first thing is to take a place in the middle of it and make that an industrial station and get a man with the right heart towards the natives to teach them. I have not been to the Transkei, but I should like to see how it works, because I think that is a very good thing from what I hear. When the Native Commission sat here years ago, before Union, I spoke in the same way then and pointed out that this was needed. Now the Government try to give them a good schooling, but it seems useless, because boys have told me they go to Durban and try to get into offices, but they have to go back to doing the same work as other natives—carrying coal, and so on—and they say what is the use of it. Now, I think they should get education in agriculture and education which would help them, such as blacksmith's work, mending ploughs, and other things needed in agriculture—that is what they ought to learn.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you find the younger native now more keen than he was on getting education?

Revd. Karlsen.] Yes, I think they are, a lot of them. Generally speaking, I think they are, but they have nothing to set their hands on when they have got education.

Mr. Chapman.] If the Government introduced some system of industrial education, you think they would go?

Revd. Karlsen.] Yes, they would, undoubtedly. If I had the money I should buy a big farm and carry on agricultural work amongst them and teach them that. I know I should be very much stronger and make better Christians of them, too.

Mr. Chapman.] Will those who have gained knowledge from European farmers make use of it at their kraals?

Revd. Karlsen.] Well, I don't know, but it seems that they have learned very little from the farmers. I do not know why; I do not blame the farmers for that. The native goes to work, not to learn. It is the money he is after and nothing else.

The Chairman.] Don't you think he says "I have no plough—I have not the machinery and manure?

Revd. Karlsen.] No, I don't think it is that. I had a talk with a boy I have known

for 17 years. I taught him some things in the garden and he said to me "Well, look here, Umfundisi, we have no money to buy manure." I said "You have only about two acres or so, and all the manure you need you have in your kraal." Then he said the white men like to plant mealies with a machine." I replied "It is no use for you to think of a planter unless you have 10 or 12 acres, and the best thing for you is to go on as you usually do." Many of them are very keen to learn and want to know more.

Mr. Aiken.] You have got to get over the native superstition as regards using improved methods when they come home—that is the trouble. I have a man on my farm (he is in France now); that man knows how to work properly on up-to-date lines, but as soon as he gets back home again he reverts to native custom on account of superstition.

Mr. Marwick.] I would like to ask Mr. Karlsen whether from his experience the natives have sufficient land?

Revd. Karlsen.] They are not satisfied. They say they have very little ground and from a native point of view I agree with them. They have not got enough, because if they have 25 acres they have not enough, and I think the Government should try to look into that. Say there is a big kraal with 5 wives; they have five gardens, but they cannot all be put together—they are scattered—and so they want much land. As conditions are now they have not enough land, but I am sure under better conditions they could get thousands more people into the locations.

Yes, I would say there is room for more than double if the conditions were altered, but if they do not do something more I think harm will be done if they force more natives into the location, because they will fight over garden disputes and cattle. Chief Dikwayo has a big farm for himself. I have been there many times and seen it is good ground and it could take a lot more people if it was properly done, but nothing has been done and he cries out that he has not enough land. There is another tribe on Dribi Flats, Gadupi's; he has no location at all, and all his people are leaving him and going away.

I think the natives would be in a much better position if they could continue to pay rent until this Act really is passed; they have not the confidence in Government they should have.

Mr. Chapman.] Would the farm "Cherrywillingham Park" carry cane?

Mr. Aiken.] Yes, there is cane on "Cherrywillingham Park." It would be a feasible proposition. It is not too far from the Railway, but the labour proposition stops us at present.

Mr. T. S. NUTMAN.] I am a Dipping Supervisor and know the locations well. The No. 6 Location, beyond Mehlomnyama, would be most suitable for cutting up into a closer settlement scheme; Locations 4 and 5 are very fertile indeed. No. 4 is exceptionally fertile; it is undulating country and not broken. At one dipping tank in that location there are 800 head of cattle. I do not consider the locations are thickly populated. Allowing, say, 4 acres per hut—I include grazing ground—should be sufficient for present purposes.

The Chairman.] That would mean he would cultivate two acres and have one beast.

Mr. Nutman.] Well, I am taking the average. I think this coast land would carry one beast to the acre all the year round. Say each hut had one beast—that would be enough. Some kraals have 60 head and many have no cattle at all.

Location No. 4 is very well watered and the soil is excellent. It is about 2½ miles from the sea. Going beyond the coast line you get excellent land. The coast line is sand dunes, but they do not extend to the location.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, they invariably get good crops there. They have big stocks of mealies now. They are quite well-to-do; they have Kaffir sheep, goats and cattle.

The same remarks would apply to Location No. 5, but it is not so good as Location No. 4. The location towards the Umzumbi is rather broken and the ground is not so good. There is land there which would be suitable for cane, but there is a lot of broken country. The natives there are not so well off. It is fairly well inhabited, but not over-populated.

In Location No. 6 there is a splendid rainfall; they get the most. I should say the rainfall in this District is sufficient. There is rarely any question of starvation amongst natives. There has not been exceptional drought here; they have all had crops, except in some of the very deep valleys which seemed to escape the rains—they have suffered.

Most of Location No. 6 is very good ground, but lower down it is hot country with very good grazing. It is well watered. It would be suitable for closer settlement.

Mr. Chapman.] Do natives ejected from farms find any difficulty in getting a place to reside on?

Mr. Nutman.] No, they can go where they like, either in locations or on private farms. It rests with the Magistrate. They do not care about going on Locations; they do not want to be under the Chief. They much prefer to pay rent on farms. They would sign contracts to remain on farms in preference to going on Locations.

Mr. Marwick.] Can you say how many natives per annum have been dispossessed of tenancy in this District?

Mr. Nutman.] No, I really could not say. There are about 80,000 natives living in these Location lands and a balance of 8 or 9 thousand living on private farms. A

large number will not continue to reside on farms if they have to work continuously, and will have to be provided for. The first Commission have allotted 146,000 acres and this would be more than adequate for 9,000 natives. For the whole of this Division the increase is about 40 per thousand.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, we are planting sugar now on "Bembridge." It has been proved suitable for cane, even on the ordinary grass land. I should say the first crop went at least 20 tons to the acre. We are 3½ miles from the rail. The land right up to "The Start" is being leased for cane growing at present.

Yes, we want to have the farm excluded. Wiseman has put in twelve years there, and it is his home. It seems an irregular boundary. He bought the whole farm first, but owing to monetary difficulties he allowed half to lapse. We have applied to get that half back.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think the natives in these Locations cultivate sufficient for their requirements?

Mr. Nutman.] They have a surplus. Last year they had mealies when the new crop was ready. About 2,000 bags came from Mehlomnyama this season.

The climate of the native locations in this district is healthy.

Mr. Marwick.] I take it that Nomyatuli's should be included in the native area?

Mr. Nutman.] I should say so. The land is equally as good as in the other locations, but it might be a bit sandy towards the sea.

Report of Evidence taken in Town Hall, Harding, on 4th October, 1917.

Mr. H. M. Barker, Magistrate, Harding, present.

Mr. HORACE TOLMER.] I do not know exactly what I said before. I think, in reference to the improvements, they are about the same; they actually cost me about £1,500 before the war. This year I reaped between 400 and 500 bags of mealies. The cattle are about the same. The sheep have increased—with lambs I have about 800. The cream last year came to about £200.

The return from the farm "Moville" for the year ending July, 1917, was £600 chiefly from cream and wool; that is the gross return.

I would like to put in a letter from the Sheep Inspector as evidence, if you will take it. (Read by Committee and returned to Mr. Tolmer).

I would also like to say that the farm will grow practically everything, from forage, pumpkins, turnips, potatoes—both sweet and the ordinary English variety—and numerous other crops.

I started with 40 head of cattle and 150 sheep. East Coast fever left me two head of cattle. I had to set to again and make a new start, and I am not sorry I did so.

I am about 4 to 5 miles from the Railway, at the Ihluku Siding. Land has considerably increased in value since the Committee was here last. Two farms have changed hands at £4 and £3 an acre, respectively, recently. I have also had a certain experience of farming in Kokstad, and I think this land is much superior, because the winter is so severe there.

In the schedule this farm is called "Umlothowa"; the registered name is "Moville." I also have a piece called "Juluka," which is attached to "Moville."

Mr. J. J. OOSTHUIS.] Since the Committee was here last I took down 320 sheep; they have increased to over 600. I reaped between 800 and 900 bags of mealies this last season.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I bought another 20 to make 320 in all. They have done very well. The land is good there; anything will grow. The cattle do well there; we don't worry about winter feed, at least it does not worry me; I never feed my cattle in the winter.

I have not increased the wattles. I found they were no good, and that I was only spoiling my grazing.

I have still the huts. I am busy getting some brick to erect a bit of a cottage. I had not fenced in February when you were here. I have since ring-fenced my farm.

Mr. A. F. H. NEWTON.] The Kafirs are against any more land being set aside for them and the white men are against it. I cannot see any use at all in the movement.

Mr. C. RAW.] I bought the farm "Lot R." Gentlemen, I looked all through East Griqualand, where I was born and bred, and could not find a farm to suit me. I have now bought the farm "Lot R." and think it is very suitable for mealies and dairying. I had to pay a big price for the farm, and I think it would be a pity for farms like that to be put into native area. I have also bought a lot of material for fencing. I have

not yet put it up. I intend to build as soon as I have put in my mealies and have my crops in.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] I have not had a crop so far. I have only been down a couple of months.

By Mr. Chapman.] I understood the farm was excluded from native area when I bought it.

No, I do not think I would have bought it had I known it was in a recommended native area; that was the only thing which might have put me off.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] Yes, I am quite satisfied with the soil; it would be only the fact of its being in a native area.

Mr. J. A. SIMPSON.] Well, gentlemen, nowadays it is very difficult for any young man to try and get a farm in our part. I think from a dairy point of view anyone could do very well round here, and I think sheep would also do very well. As far as I can gather the stock would need very little feed, if any at all. Where I lived, in the Kokstad District, it is very difficult to raise stock and bring it through the winter. I have not bought a farm yet; I am thinking of applying for the farm "Fairview," adjoining "Lot R." and "Monkey" (a portion taken up by a Mr. Shuttleworth 8 years ago and since reverted). Gentlemen, that land is more suitable for a white man than natives. There are only three natives on it.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I would take it up and live on it; I think I would make a living on it.

Mr. J. C. SINCLAIR.] I would like to correct the statement I made in my last evidence: it should be 300 gallons of cream, not lbs. Since the last time you were up I have completed the fencing of my farm. It is now ring-fenced with five paddocks, and I have reaped this season 800 bags of mealies.

By Mr. Chapman.] Off about 100 acres. Yes. I used fertilizer—50 lbs. to the acre. Without fertilizer you would get about 5 or 6 bags to the acre.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] I have been on the farm 7 years myself, but have had it 8.

By Mr. Chapman.] Another building has been erected there in which my father and mother are living. The house I value at £150. It is wood and iron. It was a house pulled down from the coast and brought here.

I have another 100 increase of sheep. They have done well.

Mr. Tolmer.] Mr. Herbertson wrote asking me if I would make a few remarks about the farm "Bedford." Mr. W. F. Clayton wrote and advised him to come and give evidence about his 1,000 acres. I am quite sure it would make a splendid farming proposition.

Mr. H. M. BARKER.] I might explain that that farm "Bedford" has been applied for by several people. There are several other applicants for it. Government has notified all applicants that it is in the scheduled area and they are not prepared to sell. The upset price I think was 10s. an acre. "Bedford" was allotted to Mr. Kvalsig and it was found he was in Government employ, so he had to give up the property

Mr. J. BROWN.] I do not think I have anything further to add. We just wanted to keep the protest going. Speaking for the district, I think you can see for yourselves and Mr. Chapman would be able to judge that it has advanced considerably even since his last visit. The coloured people are just beginning to realise the fact that they must cultivate the land and they are doing so. The Railway has been a great help to them, and they are getting more produce away. Houston has grown 1,500 bags, if not more, this year. The Fynns, who—as everyone knows—were very lazy and never grew more than 20 bags or so before, have at least two to three hundred bags surplus this year. I do not think the land could be put to better use than it is at present than by allowing it to remain as it is.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think there is any inclination on the part of the half-castes to sell at present, unless it was a forced sale through death in the family. As long as it is possible for them to hold on I think they will do so. They would not be able to replace the land. Houston gave 35s. an acre for his farm. I should like to buy it back at the same price now. He bought it through me. The original owner was too lazy to live, even to walk about. He had to surrender it; he had a bond for £300 on it from the Land Bank and he said he could not make sufficient on the farm to meet the interest on the bond.

Mr. Chapman.] What is the average value of land in that area?

Mr. Brown.] A lot of the land is some of the best land in the district and farms here have been sold at £4 an acre infinitely superior to some of the lands on the other side of Harding. I think £4 an acre would be an average price. The nearest siding to me is 1½ miles away; there are other sidings which serve some of them even nearer than that.

I have been there 21 years. Certainly they have improved in their methods of agriculture. Until within the last two or three years there was no improvement at all; they were ploughing with the old wooden plough. You could not induce them to use a cultivator or planter, and they are all using them now, also disc ploughs. I had orders this season—if it had been possible to get them—for 6 or 7 reversible hillside disc

ploughs, but it was impossible to get them. These orders were all from coloured people. They are beneficially occupying that land. They nearly all rank as Europeans—the majority do. The Fynn family rank as natives, but Clothiers, Houston, Dicken and Laurens rank as Europeans. They are all on the voters' roll; the Fynns also, although they ranked as natives. The late Tom Fynn was on the voters' roll.

By Mr. Chapman.] One or two farms have changed hands, but I do not think they have sold any portions of their farms. Some of the farms have been cut up: the Clothier farm originally belonged to the father, and each of the 4 sons took a portion. There have been no sales of small lots cut up. I do not know of any farm other than "White Cliff" changing hands.

I think it would be very unfair to put this part back as a native area. The coloured people there, the owners, are not natives; they admit they are coloured and they do not wish to be Europeans, but they will not be natives, and I think it would be very hard to push them back. They have had education principally in English; at the school now the medium is English—no native is allowed in that school. It was built originally by the Government for coloured people only and they won't allow natives to go there. Lots of coloured children come from Pondoland there, but the majority are from people in the district, and it would be very hard to say when they grow up that they are nothing but natives.

If the area could be left as it is—I do not say put it in the European area—a good deal of satisfaction would result. I think if it were a neutral area it would meet the wishes of the owners.

Mr. Mackenzie.] You mean a neutral area for all time?

Mr. Brown.] I think if it were left as a neutral area, in the event of any land being sold it would eventually get into the hands of Europeans, because the price of land is advancing very much and it would be beyond the limit of the natives to buy.

Mr. Chapman.] Are the natives also improving in the same way that the coloured people are?

Mr. Brown.] I am afraid not. They have not improved to the same extent. I do not think there is any tendency on their part to improve. The only implement they buy is the plough. I have not had any applications for anything but ploughs and hoes.

Mr. Chapman.] Supposing your suggestion took effect with regard to this becoming a neutral area, where would you suggest this boundary be extended to?

Mr. Brown.] I should be inclined to take the whole of the lower Encabeni lots. I think certainly the Clothiers should be included. I think I should be inclined to include the whole piece. I would make a recommendation to the effect that the land south of Location No. 6a should be left as it is and should be a neutral area.

Dr. W. CASE.] I should like to emphasise what Mr. Brown has said with regard to the feelings of these coloured people. This raises a very burning question with them: they are not recognised—they are neither European nor native. The Government has—I do not know whether knowingly or intentionally—kept them back, and they feel it very much, and if you put this area into a native area they will feel it very much indeed. The land is some of, if not the best arable land in this district, and I certainly think they would like to remain as they were, i.e., an European area, or else it should be a neutral area. I think they would prefer to remain in a European area.

I can endorse all Mr. Brown has said in regard to the improvement these coloured people are making now. They are going in for dairying very strongly; nearly every one of them is sending away their cream regularly. They are trying to improve their cattle. We have some very progressive coloured people there; they are buying good cows and a decent class of bull. As far as I know the natives are not progressing; they are just remaining as a native always is.

Mr. W. A. HUTCHINSON, J.P.] We were appointed by the Agricultural Society. I do not know that it is worth while talking about the law itself, but I think the whole district is very much against the legislation rather being hurried and rushed through. It touches a most serious matter with the natives, and I think one and all of us dread the whole thing. It is a tremendous question to start upsetting the natives and we are the very district that would feel any trouble. Right away from East London to the north of Zululand this belt is the country that would suffer. So far as the Bill is concerned, we do not like it at all, especially these times when war is going on.

With regard to these areas, when the first Commission came round they sat at Port Shepstone. These parts were proposed by Mr. Moe, who was Magistrate then, and I do not think the district was represented at all. It was almost entirely Mr. Moe's doing, and I do not think he was a suitable man. I do not want to say anything about him now. He took it upon himself entirely, and took a map and drew this line. I do not think he gave evidence at Port Shepstone, but Mr. Sangmeister gave evidence for him; it was all prepared for him, I think, so in reality it was Mr. Moe's doing and no one else. I do not think the district realized at the time, either the Europeans or the half-castes, that this district should be put into a native area. When we began to consider the matter we all came to the conclusion that as far as locations go Alfred County is particularly well off. There is any quantity of locations. Of course, the natives them-

selves say there is no room, but that is owing to their style of cultivation. Any European farmer could go into any one of these locations and grow more than enough food to support them all; it is simply a matter of bad cultivation.

These particular bits of land that these gentlemen here are discussing to-day, if I had been asked 20 years ago if they were suitable for Europeans I am afraid I should have given them a bad character. At that time the tick was the trouble. If you brought down a better class of cattle from higher areas you lost them all. The sheep did not do particularly well. We did not know it was owing to ticks. Since dipping has been established, cream and bacon factories have started and the railway has come, and I see no reason why Europeans should not make a very good living with small farms in the whole of that district. To throw it back into location, which it will be if it goes back into native area, is a great waste, and doing away with all the benefits we have now. It appears to me a very retrograde movement to spoil this land by putting it back into native area. I think those men who have spoken saying they are getting a good living are quite right with all the advantages we have.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the conditions of farming have altered so entirely in the last 20 years. Now I think a man can make a very good living.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think the prices which have recently been paid for land in this district are fair they are not inflated at all?

Mr. Hutchinson.] That is a matter very hard to judge. The railway certainly has made an enormous difference and things are altering now every day. Formerly there was so little to be done except with wool and slaughter cattle, but now things are changing so rapidly it is different.

I know the feeling pretty well amongst the half-castes that they dread the thing very much. Their one desire is to be left as they are—not to be thrown into a native area.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think if they were left as a neutral area it would suit them.

Mr. Hutchinson.] I think their desire is to be left as they are. They do not want any alteration. They are very much afraid of any alteration, as they know how they stand now.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think this boundary as suggested by Mr. Brown would be a satisfactory one?

Mr. Hutchinson.] Yes, most decidedly; my opinion is it should be left as it is. Even the broken country down towards the river is excellent cattle country in the winter.

Mr. A. G. PRENTICE, J.P.] I have been asked especially to come in this morning to speak on this matter. I may say at the start that it does not in any way affect me: I am quite unbiassed in the matter. This proposed scheme does not touch me in any shape or form.

I have listened to what Mr. Hutchinson said as regards the first Commission at Port Shepstone—that all was done by the Magistrate here. We farmers were not consulted in any way. All the Magistrate did was to rush about the streets and get hold of one man and then another (unfortunately Mr. Etheridge was one) and get their opinions. Now, as regards Mr. Etheridge's evidence: Mr. Etheridge at that time owned certain farms and had cattle on them. Tick Fever came along and he was so frightened that he sold everything he had in the cattle line. The land that he owned was then practically useless to him. He, as you know, is a Solicitor; he is not a farmer—although he is farming to-day he is not making a living out of it and when he was asked by Mr. Moe he said that he thought that these men would be only too glad to sell out. Now, gentlemen, matters have entirely altered. In the early days I found it was simply impossible to take well-bred cattle to that country on account of ticks. The curse of this district then was gall-sickness, but as dipping tanks were erected it was found that one disease after another was stamped out and it then became possible to farm there. Even the woolly-coated breeds, such as Herefords and Devons, can be taken there.

Now, you heard what Mr. Oosthuis said with regard to sheep: it is possible to run sheep in that district where before it was fatal; even the ordinary native sheep did not do, but dipping has reduced the sicknesses which affected sheep, such as geel-sickness and heartwater, and to-day they can be run at a profit. Even 12 years ago it would have been thought madness to take sheep there.

The land down there is even better than was supposed. I can remember when Mr. John Moor said that this county was only fit for Kafirs and baboons, and at the last show he said that he was pleased to hear the reports of Alfred County, which he heard was the best dairying county in Natal. I toured the Mooi River district two years ago; I went from farm to farm; I saw the land and I saw the stock. Land was pointed out at from £4 to £7 and £8 an acre and yet these men to-day are enquiring for land in Alfred County. We have always taken Mooi River District and East Griqualand on a par; we have well known men coming down and buying land here. Mr. Raw, who has spoken to-day, came from East Griqualand. Well, gentlemen, we have those facts to put before you: the land here is valuable; it is one of the finest dairying districts I know of in Natal. I have farmed in other districts in Natal in my younger days and I have found it is the best. What put us back was the want of a railway and, as I said before, the want of a dip.

In my opinion, to take any of this land and to put it back into locations would be a crying shame to the residents of this district. There are men like Mr. Hutchinson and myself who have lived here for 10 years; we have put our money into it and struggled against hard times and so on, and to-day to say that that land is to be put back into location when it has been shown to you there is no improvement in locations would be a hardship to people here.

Now, gentlemen, if you look at the map you will see that there is more land to-day owned by natives in locations than that owned by Europeans. They own more land than we do, and there is some of the finest land in native Locations—land worth £8 an acre for dairying purposes—some of the finest dairying country anywhere in South Africa, and to-day the scheme is to add to the native locations! We know that the natives here, even if they acquired these farms, that they would not improve them but spoil them.

We can see no improvement in the locations to 40 years ago: we just see huts dotted about the hillsides and the veld torn up—they tear up the good grazing land wherever they like—and there is no improvement. There is no improvement in their methods of agriculture, their dwellings, or in their homes, and on behalf of the farmers of this district I am bound to say that it would be a crying shame if more land is taken and added to the locations.

As regards the coloured population, I may say that some of them came to me the other day—some of the Niemacks—and they asked me to say that they would much rather remain as they were; that the farms were classed as European farms. They say: "Some of our fathers were white men; we are on this land, which we are improving, and we have no wish to go back to the native state; we would rather go forward." They point out how they are buying improved implements and pushing along. I have known them for 10 years, and I must say there is improvement in the people and it would not be right to push them back. They say "If our land is cut off and we die or wish to sell it, we can never get the price from the native; it is only from the European that we will get the value of our improvements back," and, of course, as we see to-day, the land is going up in value and they can see that if it is put into native area it will not improve the value at all.

Gentlemen, you have heard to-day that one farm has been refused at £4 an acre. There was one sold at £5 an acre. I purchased a piece of unimproved land at £3 an acre.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there were improvements—a dwelling and wattles—on the farm which changed hands at £5 an acre. It is 400 odd acres.

Mr. Barker.] That sale has fallen through.

Mr. Prentice.] Re Mr. Shuttleworth—there was no tank when he went there and I suppose it was simply impossible for him to make a living there in those days, with cattle dying every day. It is a good district; it is warm and there is no need to do much feeding in winter. If a cow gives one gallon here and you take her there she will give two gallons; that will show you the nature of the veld.

I would like to make that point very strong: that we in this county do not consider there is any good in making two bites of a cherry—we say straight out that there should be no land set aside for natives; that there is quite sufficient already set aside for natives, and I believe it is within your powers to recommend that. (Hear, hear! and applause).

When the Commission sat here last time it was said by Mr. Evans that there should be give and take in this question. Well, gentlemen, we have all thought the thing over; we have met here and discussed the thing from beginning to end, but we cannot see where there is any give in this matter at all—it would be to take. I suggested that if certain farms towards the Umtamvuna were thrown into native area would there be any land given. He said No—he could not promise anything of the sort. So you see there is no "give" at all in this question as far as the county is concerned; it is all "take," and as we pointed out this morning the first Commission did not come to Harding. They saw nothing of the county; they came to Port Shepstone—all they saw was the sand and the coast bushes. We were asked to go there and give evidence. We were faced with a map on the blackboard and we were simply staggered; we wanted to know why our county was to be cut up and given to natives.

By Mr. Chapman.] We were told that these were recommended as native areas. The evidence was given by Mr. Sangmeister on behalf of the Magistrate. He simply repeated what Mr. Moe told him to say, and I objected then, as I do to-day, to more land being cut off. That is how that map was marked, gentlemen, and I think it is only right you should know that fact.

Had the Commission come here and seen for themselves it might have been a different matter. The Magistrate had a "down" on the farmers at the time. As regards Mr. Etheridge's evidence, I think I have explained to you there was tick fever in the district, and that is why he said he thought some of these farmers would be willing to part with their land, but to-day Mr. Etheridge would not say the same. He is a solicitor, and the evidence he gave he gave in good faith; he did not think of what the possibilities might be.

Mr. Tolmer confirms Mr. Prentice's statement as to the first Commission and the community not being consulted.

Mr. Brown.] I confirm this also. No one who was affected was asked to attend that meeting. They were not consulted in any shape or form. I think that Mr. Moe, who was holding Branch Court once a month at my place, might have notified me, at least. It was all done in the dark.

Mr. Chapman.] Are the locations suited for a closer settlement scheme?

Mr. Prentice.] Now you are entering upon a point on which I have thought very seriously. If the Government would only consider something of the kind then I am sure there would be less opposition to this Bill, and it would meet more with the approval of the native people. There are great possibilities. As the locations are now they have some beautiful country, but as they are now there is no inducement for any native to improve his fields or his homestead—none whatever. My idea is that instead of taking land from Europeans—men who are doing good to the country—take Mr. Tolmer for instance: a man who has come from Australia; he comes here to fight our wars; he looks round and goes back to Australia, but comes back, marries and settles down. What are you going to do with him, and Mr. Sinclair, and Mr. Oosthuis? I want to know what is to happen to these men when they are turned off. If East Griqualand and Mooi River men are coming here, they cannot go there.

Instead of taking European lands my idea is that something could be done with the locations; that there should be some scheme whereby a native could get his plot of land. He would then look after it and do more on it. Perhaps not in a year or two, but in time I think matters would improve.

There are two locations that run down along the Umtamvuna and the locations which run down to the Umzimkulu. For a closer settlement scheme you must have land that you can cut up into blocks with good land on them.

Practically the whole of these locations is suitable. I have been over the whole of them during rinderpest, going from kraal to kraal getting bile, and there is some very fine country.

Mr. Chapman.] What additional population could they carry?

Mr. Prentice.] I should say roughly ten times as much as they can carry to-day. I may be wrong, but I think so. They would have to put their back into it. You ask a native to-day why don't they plant trees; they won't do it because they don't know who will be there next year, but if they got some title I am certain they would improve in time. This scheme is on to-day—what will it be in 20 or 30 years time? Polygamy is allowed and they are increasing and outnumbering us. If some scheme as you have just now touched upon could be thought out and introduced it would be far better for South Africa than Mr. Hertzog's scheme of segregation. I must speak as a Natalian and we are all convinced that this scheme of segregation will not work. I know it will not work; it will breed trouble. The natives themselves are dead against it—they don't want it, and you must remember this: when it was put forward and we began to enquire into statistics we found that there were more natives living on European lands than there were in locations, and you are going to drive them all out and put them into locations. That is Mr. Hertzog's scheme—the Commission told us so at Port Shepstone. The only man who stuck up for Natal was the Chairman, Sir William Beaumont. I am convinced that if this scheme is carried out there will be trouble with the natives. Besides, we are breaking up our old policies; our safeguard in the past has always been to keep these natives separate as much as we can, because we know if they co-operate at any time they can outmaster us. Our one safeguard has been that one chief would not trust the other—one would give the show away, but if you take all the natives and crowd them into locations, then I am afraid there will be trouble. We shall have Ethiopian ministers there and there will be sedition and trouble. It seems a sin to me to ride about the country and see hillsides torn up and no improvement; the land will peter out, whereas the white man would put in fertilizer—and so it goes on year after year.

MR. C. M. ETHERIDGE.] At the outset I should like to point out that these farms, many of them, are wrongly described in the Schedule. Take the farm "Moville." I own the farm "Sub. E. of A. of Y," and E. of farm "Nebo"; I do not know whether they are included at all. "Mt. Nebo" I own a portion of; "High Dale" I do not know at all. However, I mention that by the way; no doubt the correct description will be inserted.

I gave evidence before the last Commission, but since then there are one or two points I should like to emphasise. Land is rapidly rising in value in this county. Two weeks ago we sold Mr. J. P. Bouverie's farm for £4 an acre to Mr. Groom. Last night I sold Mrs. Renkin's farm for £3 an acre; it is 13 miles from here on the Pondoland border; the only improvements are fencing and a stone house—not a good one. Land worth 30s. two years ago is worth £4 an acre. I sold two farms, one at 30s. and the other at £2 an acre, two years ago, which are both worth £4. Any farm within 8 or 10 miles of the railway is easily worth £4 an acre.

I have made a number of improvements on the farm "Croydon," and think, gentlemen, you saw them yesterday. I have put up a large cow-shed; the farm is ring-fenced and divided into 3 paddocks. There is not a stone on the farm and it is within 3 miles of Ihluku Siding. Well, gentlemen, this farm "Croydon" I consider one of the best in

the County. Experienced farmers here like the two Boddy's say that if they were only allowed 600 acres they would pick it; it is most fertile. The farm carries 60 cows, 30 oxen; last season's calves were 48, also two Devon bulls. We have cultivated 100 acres and we keep anything between 40 and 60 pigs. Last season we reaped 300 muids of mealies. We got in addition to that 100 bags which were damaged by leaving out in the rain. Mr. Otto is unable to get fertilizer, but if he could he says he would reap about 900 bags. For a small farm of 605 acres to carry about 120 head of stock and allow 100 acres to be cultivated in this manner shows the capabilities of the place. It is all sweet veld and the only thing the cattle get are the stalks in winter by way of winter feeding.

Since I gave evidence some years ago the whole position has changed. Most of the farms are now within easy reach of the Railway—many are only 3 to 5 miles from Ihluka Siding. Why I object very strongly to my farm going in is this: the late Chairman, Mr. Evans, when he was in Harding, said if our farms were included in the native area that pressure would be brought to bear on us to sell our farms (this statement is challenged by Mr. Chapman). He also said that they would bring into force an old Natal Act expropriating these farms. Mr. Evans spoke three times: after his first speech we were very pleased—we thought we had nothing to fear, but his last speech undid everything, because I understood him to say that if we were in the black area pressure would be brought to bear on us to part with our farms. That was the impression we had, at any rate.

Gentlemen, these farms are some of the best in the County and I think you can see yourselves they are good. The value is £3 to £4 an acre. I could sell my farm within 30 days at £4 an acre, but I would not do it. No native, of course, could afford to pay £4; how can a native buy the cowshed and other improvements? How can a native pay £3,000 for 600 acres? It really is so discouraging, because Mr. Otto, my partner, wishes me to make more improvements—more paddocks, but we do not know where we are.

I believe the owners of the farms adjoining mine have just as high an opinion of their farms as I have of mine. You understand, gentlemen, that directly a railway comes into a district it alters the whole position entirely, because the farmers have an outlet for their produce. Our cream cheque last year for some months was £23—£24 and that only from 60 grade cows.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you own the farm or portion "Stocklands"?

Mr. Etheridge.] I own the farm "Stocklands." It is 160 acres and bounded by Crown Lands.

Mr. Chapman.] You will remember that you and several others made a suggestion to the Committee that certain farms should be excluded, which we dotted on the map—do you still adhere to that view?

Mr. Etheridge.] I do not want to see any of it put in, but I do say this: that there are many farms on the fringe, near the Railway Station, that could and should be excluded—Mr. Tolmer's, Mr. Sinclair's and Mr. Oosthuis' etc. If the Commission are determined to take a portion of this area I say they could with very little trouble leave out those farms on the fringe. I adhere to that statement.

By Mr. Marwick.] With the rise in the price of land has there been any corresponding rise in the rents charged to natives?

Mr. Etheridge.] How could there possibly be? The law prohibits you increasing rents. The natives that paid £2 or 30s. do so now; you cannot increase the rents.

Mr. Marwick.] I mean as regards natives getting tenancy now?

Mr. Etheridge.] If you take a new tenant on your farm he provides labour.

Mr. Marwick.] Is that law strictly adhered to?

Mr. Etheridge.] Yes, they would be prosecuted and liable to £100 fine otherwise.

Mr. Marwick.] Nobody has increased their rents in the County so the figure remains the same—£1 to £4 a hut?

Mr. Etheridge.] Yes. I was receiving £4 a hut, but I have sold the farm. I was the man who was charging the highest rents in the country, but I sold the farms and I do not "kafir-farm" at all now. No natives pay £4 a hut now; the tenants have left. Farmers now want labour, not rents.

Mr. Marwick.] I notice you said the practice was for a large number of farmers to charge rent and they could not employ all the natives on their farms. I assume, then, that when the new Act comes into force a large number of natives would have to be displaced?

Mr. Etheridge.] At the time I gave my evidence a farmer would have more natives on his farm that he could employ, but now since the railway has come here Kafir tenants do not pay us. They are getting rid of those who pay rents and only having those on the farms who give their service.

Mr. Marwick.] So, therefore, a large number of natives are being displaced from their tenancy?

Mr. Etheridge.] I should not say a large number; I should say the surplus.

Mr. Chapman.] Where have they gone, Mr. Etheridge?

Mr. Etheridge.] Some to other farms, some to locations. None that I know of have left the district.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think they find a difficulty in getting tenancy?

Mr. Etheridge.] A native now would have difficulty, because a farmer says "I want labour; I don't want rent," and the native does not care to work continuously.

Mr. Marwick.] Will continuous employment result in the displacement of natives?

Mr. Etheridge.] I do not know if they will keep on to take on continuous employment. I suppose a good many will go; I do not know where they will go.

Mr. Chapman.] Have natives approached you with a view to buying land?

Mr. Etheridge.] Very few; only two have been to see me about "Stocklands" in the last year or two. There is no demand for land by natives here.

Mr. Chapman.] Are there many farms owned by natives likely to fall into the market through bonds, etc.?

Mr. Etheridge.] There are some. The chief Gudhla is heavily bonded to Tatham, Wilkes & Co.; it is only a matter of a year or so.

Mr. Barker (Magistrate).] I might say that there are several farms owned by natives who are unable to pay their instalments and they are likely either to be reduced in acreage or revert. They are Crown Lands. There are several I have had a lot of trouble with.

Mr. Marwick.] How many farms are there that you know are occupied purely by natives who are rent-paying tenants in European areas?

Mr. Etheridge.] I think I am the only sinner—on "Stocklands"—I have only three kraals. The natives pay rent; they do not give me any labour. That is the only one I know of. I do not think there is any European in this County who owns a farm and only collects the rent from natives.

Mr. Marwick.] I mean farms on which rents only charged within a non-native area.

Mr. Etheridge.] Every farmer would want a certain amount of labour. My tenants are there to give labour. I do not know of any farm where the natives pay rent only. There are no absentee landlords in this County; all farms are being worked. The farm in the Estate of Potts is the only one not occupied and that is coming into the market.

Mr. Chapman.] Does not that apply to "Bissett"?

Mr. Mayne (Supervisor of Locations).] Yes, they pay rent.

Mr. Etheridge.] I have never collected rents.

Mr. Newton.] Does Mr. Etheridge think that any land on this side is required for the Kafirs?

Mr. Etheridge.] I said that now the railway has come to Alfred County it has altered the whole position. I do not want to see any land in Alfred County given to natives. I do not think it necessary. I think the natives have more land than they require now.

Dr. W. Case.] I think it is my duty as President of the Alfred County Farmers' Association to back up thoroughly what has been said with regard to this demarcated area and also to thoroughly endorse what the representatives of this Society have said. They have not over-stated the case.

I may say, Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Marwick has opened the question as to whether any natives have been turned off private farms and had a difficulty in getting tenancy elsewhere, I do not think you will find 3 farmers in this district have turned any natives off and, as far as charging rent, many who did charge before take labour instead. Mr. Marwick has asked whether these natives would be agreeable to go into service as continuous servants. Well, gentlemen, I believe there are three classes—native tenants, native servants and squatters—and that question came up before the House at Capetown. General Botha made a speech stating that would certainly be altered: that continuous service is not to be expected for a moment with any natives, especially Natal. I certainly do not think it was intended that they should do it here.

(Considerable discussion took place here regarding this statement, it being pointed out that the definition of "servant" remains exactly as it was.)

Dr. Case.] What is "continuous service"?

Mr. Marwick.] Twelve months on end.

Mr. Hutchinson.] That would capsize the whole of Natal. The result will be native war undoubtedly. It will arouse the whole population of Natal.

Dr. Case.] It is certainly a condition which will not work in Natal.

Mr. Marwick.] Mr. Prentice, as a practical man, how long do you estimate it would take to get the natives to conform to a closer style of living in the locations so as to make room for the larger number that you rightly maintain can be supported in the location?

Mr. Prentice.] I think, from what I have heard from the natives, it would not take long If they could get any right or title to the land without having to pay for it, they would be only too glad; all the natives about here are willing for that.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you see the danger in our adhering to the definition of servant as one being continuously employed before the re-settlement of locations takes place?

Mr. Prentice.] I see great danger. I mean to bring up that question. I think if they carried it out now there will be great trouble. Gentlemen, I can assure you all the natives are against this scheme of segregation. If this comes into force you will have to say to your native, "You must do this or I cannot have you." They will all be driven into locations and they will be over-crowded then.

Mr. Marwick.] How long would you suggest as a reasonable period within which the new style of settlement in locations could be effected?

Mr. Prentice.] I should say about ten years.

Mr. Hutchinson.] When we were discussing the question before that was our great objection to the Bill. Mr. Wheelwright was here at the time and we spoke to him and he agreed that it must be altered in some way. It appears to me that that was drawn up entirely from a Cape Colony, or Free State or Transvaal point of view, where they have a family living on the farm working for them and have to go off if they don't agree. We could not possible work under the same plan; we could not possibly pay a licence for these men and do so annually. It would mean kraals all over Natal having to go. It would upset the whole of Natal and I do not think myself this has been brought forward strongly enough anywhere. The people in the other three Provinces do not understand it, in my opinion. I do not believe they will get used to it in ten years for a moment. If that is carried out it will mean war. They won't get used to leaving districts where they have lived from father to son. The way the whole of Natal is working is that no natives work for 12 months straight on end. In my opinion it is a most dangerous principle to adopt.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you think the method of applying this will embitter the relations between landlord and tenant?

Mr. Hutchinson.] Yes, most decidedly, in my opinion. I do not think it can be carried out without a tremendous amount of trouble. I am employing the grandsons of my old men. To turn those boys off would be monstrous.

Mr. Barker (Magistrate).] I did not invite the natives to come in to interview you, although I was warned to ask those interested to appear before you. The natives in this district are quite satisfied with their conditions as they are now. I have consulted them and they have no complaint whatever to make. They are quite satisfied with the conditions under which they are living now and they do not appear to want to give evidence or have any alteration of any kind. I thought that to invite them here would upset them and I decided on my own responsibility not to bring them here.

MR. R. MAYNE (Inspector of Locations).] Regarding the locations most suitable for closer settlement by natives—No. 1, No. 2, Tom Fynn's, and No. 3 would be best. I am sorry to disagree with Mr. Prentice about the Umzimkulu locations. The larger portions of the above locations are suitable, in my opinion; 6 and 6*a* are not suitable, also Mbambulo's and Sakayedwa's. It is a rough country and it is comparatively dry—water is scarce. In Ngudo's location we have one stream which dries up and leaves only water holes; there are no level flats. The country is very dry thorn country, full of ridges, and arable land is scarce—I am referring to the locations on the Umzimkulu.

Mr. Marwick.] What extra population would these locations you refer to as suitable carry if they were cut up, and how much land could be allotted to each hut?

Mr. Mayne.] If you had to allot grazing land to each man I am afraid they would not carry much more; No. 1 might, but this is more of a grazing country. I don't think —my own candid opinion is that you would create no more space by adopting that scheme in locations Nos. 2, 3 and Tom Fynn's.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there not a lot of land wasted?

Mr. Mayne.] The waste occurs in the want of economy. There is an old law which states a kraal shall be composed of a certain number of huts; well, this law is not observed at all and you find solitary huts. If they were confined to villages and they had separate grazing and arable areas it would help a lot.

(Mr. Chapman briefly outlines the scheme of closer settlement).

Under those conditions they would carry more; you would probably be able to double the population. No. 2 and 3 and Tom Fynn's is very good quality land.

The general opinion is that they would take 4 acres to a hut. They would not cultivate it every year—probably an acre would be left fallow.

Mr. Chapman.] With regard to cattle, are they increasing to any great extent?

Mr. Mayne.] Very much so. At the end of last month the total number of cattle in locations in Alfred County was 10,677 head.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there any tendency to reduce their stock by selling?

Mr. Mayne.] No, they are buying largely. They have reduced the number of smaller stock.

Mr. Chapman.] These areas are well watered?

Mr. Mayne.] Yes, on the West side of the division they are well watered.

Mr. Marwick.] Are the natives showing any decrease in their wish to keep cattle, or are they still keen?

Mr. Mayne.] They are keener than ever they have been to own cattle to-day. There is an inclination here now to get a better class of cattle amongst natives.

Mr. Marwick.] To what extent are these natives supporting themselves on their own land. Are they growing enough for their own needs?

Mr. Mayne.] It depends on the season. Last season was a very favourable one and they almost grew enough for their own needs. In an ordinary season they would grow about 50 per cent. of their requirements. They are always after beer; they leave the work to the women.

Mr. Marwick.] Any figures to estimate the annual increase?

Mr. Mayne.] No, only during the last few months I have noticed that there are natives coming from farms to locations. During this last winter there were more applications than formerly. There is no difficulty at present in accommodating them. The chiefs are keen on getting more men in the locations.

Mr. Barker.] States that one chief whose tribe live entirely on private lands states that he wishes to move to Pondoland. His tribe is being turned off private lands on account of their stock. It is quite a small tribe and they originally came from Pondoland.

Copy.

Harding district, Natal,
September 15th, 1917.

To the Secretary for Native Affairs,
Pretoria.

Sir,

We, the undersigned owners of farms in the district of Lower Umzimkulu, which have been included in the Area No. 17 of the Native Affairs Administration Bill published in the "Union Gazette Extraordinary, of May 9th, 1917, on page 29, hereby emphatically protest and object to our farms being included in the native area upon the following grounds:

That there is no necessity to increase the native areas in this district as in proportion to their numbers the natives already hold more land than in any other parts in Natal, and we ask that the Committee appointed by the Government for the Province of Natal in terms of the recommendations of the Select Committee on Native Affairs shall visit the Harding district and inspect our farms which are included in Area No. 17 of the Native Affairs Administration Bill and take our evidence.

Signed by.	Name of Farm.
JOHN E. BROWN.	Vandyke.
E. F. HOUSTON.	Slexel.
M. W. CLOTHIER.	Sopolo.
ISAAC CLOTHIER.	Thornton.
JAMES FYNN.	Riverside.
WILL NIEMACK.	Whitecliff.
R. G. HOUSTON.	Slexel.
JOHN H. FYNN.	Brook Vale and Hawarden, & F. G.
WALTER FYNN.	Omega.
DAVID OGLE.	Omega.
J. D. FYNN.	No. 8 Location.
R. DICKEN.	Orange Grove.
J. W. LOURENCE.	Norham.

Copy.

Umfolozi River, Zululand,
10th September, 1917.

The Secretary for Native Affairs,
Pretoria.

Sir,

Reading in the "Natal Farmer" of August 31st that a local committee has been appointed to further enquire into the question of the areas marked down as proposed European and native areas by the Native Lands Commission and as I am desirous of stating my case and note that the first step is to address myself to you I therefore beg to state that—

I am at present farming a piece of Crown Lands in extent 1,050 acres known as "Bedford" in the division of Alfred, Natal, and situate 9 miles from the village of Harding.

I only have this farm on a monthly lease and entered into occupation on the 1st of February last, since when I have spent about £100 on the property in the way of necessary improvements, the place having no buildings, kraals, etc., on it when I took it over. Naturally I am very anxious to buy the land and have made several applications for it, but I understand that it has been marked off as proposed native area.

The veldt is composed entirely of Red Grass (sweet veldt) and is simply ideal for dairy farming, which is the branch of farming in which I am most interested, and I think it is quite evident that land of this description would be of more benefit to the State if occupied by a European. I may say that before I got the lease of this farm it was supporting *one* Kaffir kraal of two huts. I therefore ask that this farm be excluded from native area.

I am willing to pay a fair price for the land and am in a position to satisfy all the Government's demands as regards the stocking of same, indeed the farm is at present fairly well stocked.

I am a farmer of 18 years' experience and so can safely state that I am competent of occupying the land beneficially and to the Government's satisfaction. A visit to the farm to-day would prove what I say, but naturally I have not been able to do all I would like to have done owing to the very unsatisfactory lease which I hold, and I am only anxious that the land be allotted to me so that I can at once proceed with further improvements, such as tree-planting, fencing, etc.

If the proposed line dividing the European from the native area were moved just across this farm and the location fence taken as the boundary, this would put "Bedford" in European area. I therefore beg that this be done.

I may state that I gave evidence to the above effect before the Commission on the occasion of their visit to Harding.

Yours obediently,

R. G. HERBERTSON.

Evidence of Mr. James Cole, taken at Umzimkulu, East Griqualand, on 5th October, 1917.

I bought these farms: "F.P. 247" and "S. 79" from the Government, and the conditions have been fulfilled. They are situated in the Polela division. The adjoining farms belong to the Trappists; they call the Mission "Centocow." My farm always has been occupied. I value the improvements at a good bit. Land at Dronk Vlei, which is something similar, is fetching £4 or £5 an acre. The farm is fenced all round and divided into paddocks. There are kraals and plantations, dipping tanks and two houses of brick—good houses, too. My farms have been occupied more than 20 years, *i.e.* "S. 79"; the other piece I got afterwards and I am not quite certain if all instalments have been paid on F.P. 247—if there are any at all there will be only one or two.

That is my contention: that I bought the land on certain conditions and there is nothing in them to notify that we would be called upon to turn it into a kafir location. We have faithfully fulfilled the requirements of the Government.

By Mr. Chapman.] I had no intimation that these farms were in the recommended area until the Magistrate (Mr. J. F. Clark) told me recently. The farm is about 3 miles from the railway station.

I think the land is worth about £4 per acre, as land is going. The improvements cost a lot. Altogether there is not quite 2,000 acres and when you come to put improvements on it it adds to it.

I use the farms for stock principally. The agriculture undertaken is for stock feeding. We have always kept Europeans on the farms there. It is part of a big block of land which the river divides.

I have no desire to sell the land. If the Government have the power to take it they should pay for it, but we have no desire to sell. The point is that my family—if I leave it to them—must sell to kaffirs and have to take their price.

After all, I do not see that any advantage would be gained by putting European places which are occupied into native areas

I object very strongly to it being included. That farm is part of a block of about 14,000 to 15,000 acres, but there are different homesteads with Europeans and the whole lot is used for stock and is fully stocked.

Report of Evidence taken at Ixopo, Natal, on 6th October, 1917, in the Magistrate's Court-Room.

MR. A. H. WALKER.] I have not very much to say on the matter, but I presume that the areas set aside for the occupation of natives if this Bill passes into law will ultimately fall into the hands of the natives. Though I recognise that in developing any

large policy individuals must suffer, at the same time the State should not sacrifice its assets. In this division there has been about half a million spent in opening it up with railways, and I apprehend that it will be very detrimental to the development of the district and to the further development of our railway system if these lands are set aside for native occupation.

I have seen a good deal of lands that have passed into the hands of natives and they certainly, as far as my experience goes, do not develop the land as Europeans do. I know land that has been in the hands of natives, owned by them for over 50 years, and a great deal of land which has been owned by them for the matter of 30 years, but I have seen little or no development taking place amongst the natives from the fact that they own their own land.

The main point I want to draw your attention to is that on these areas set aside for the occupation of natives here is one farm, "Hlutenkungu," which is actually on the railway and has a station on it. Well, by passing into the hands of natives there would be a loss of revenue to the railway undoubtedly. Further, as regards branch lines being put down in future, it is undesirable, I think, to have land set aside for natives which would be naturally for a branch line to traverse. Then again, there is another water-shed between the rivers Umgodi and Umzumbi, down towards the Umzimkulu; there is a considerable area there which is being developed by the European owners and I think it is undesirable to include that.

The native of late years—you can hardly call him a farmer—is more and more becoming a man who works away from home and he does not suffer by not being close to a railway.

The Chairman.] Do you think the locations are sufficient for the natives in this Division?

Mr. Walker.] I think so.

The Chairman.] Not if the natives are required to leave the European farms?

Mr. Walker.] Certainly not, but for those natives who simply wish to have a place to stay on there is ample room.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you know the native locations well?

Mr. Walker.] I did at one time, but for the last 15 years I have not been much about.

Mr. Chapman.] Do any of them lend themselves to closer settlement for natives, *i.e.* for cutting up?

Mr. Walker.] Yes, some portions of some locations do. Portions of No. 8 do. In some parts the water question is very difficult. Some of it is very rugged, but there are portions which are very good land. The Northern portion I should consider the best.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am not personally interested in any of these farms in the recommended area. I do not know the farms well on the Umkomaas. I know the area you visited yesterday.

MR. A. V. ALLAN.] When we were advised of the Evans-Chapman Committee visiting this district we (our society) went into the matter very thoroughly indeed. I will read the two resolutions which were passed at the time (see annexures).

We appointed at the time certain delegates who knew the various portions of this district very thoroughly, so that we could give evidence when the Committee came here, and that evidence was given. We have asked Mr. Walker to be present to-day to give evidence.

That evidence we adhere to and still contend that the land in the hands of the natives is amply sufficient for the native population of this district. Every native is looked upon, if he is married, as a farmer, and the time has now come, gentlemen, when this must be put a stop to. It is not necessary, because a native wishes to have 100 head of cattle, that we must provide him with grazing and arable land. Our point is that the native must be taught to improve. There is ample room in the locations. Five years ago on Location 5 the natives said: "There is no land." Since then the farm "Langfontein" has been taken by Europeans and three-quarters of the natives who lived there have gone on to Location No. 5, where there is ample room for more. We adhere to the point that there is plenty of land to take the majority of the native population of this district.

By Mr. Chapman.] Location No. 5 has absorbed practically all the natives from the farms "Langfontein," "Avonmore" and "Carnduff Glen," and yet there is ample room for more natives in that location, in which there is excellent land. It is a bit rugged. There are 1,000 acres on the higher ground without a native hut on it.

Mr. Chapman.] Does it lend itself to cutting up in smaller blocks for natives?

Mr. Allan.] In the lower portions, yes, but not in the upper portions on account of the water question. Location 6, I think, lends itself more so than Location 5 for closer settlement.

Mr. Chapman.] Has there been any change since we were here last?

Mr. Allan.] One of the farms, "Bromham Hall," has been occupied by Mr. Mackenzie.

MR. H. E. G. FANNIN.] In connection with this area, I would like to point out that as far as our recommendations are concerned we have given a certain area that is

owned by whites and not occupied by them; I mean we have placed that in our recommendation in the native area. It is land which has been producing rents for the owner and all those areas, I think, have been placed in the native area on our recommendation. But what we do protest against is land occupied by whites for 20 or 30 years being placed in the native area and we contend that really there is sufficient land for the requirements of the natives for a very long time. It is rich land and would provide for them for half a century, I suppose.

By Mr. Chapman.] We did not go into the matter of neutral areas.

By Mr. Marwick.] We passed a resolution, at a meeting of the Society, approving of Sir William Beaumont's minute. You have a copy of that resolution. It was the intention at the time to approve of that particular feature of his report, regarding the area south of the Umkomaas.

Mr. Chapman.] If that portion, the southern area, was a neutral area, it would suit your views?

Mr. Fannin.] So far as I personally am concerned, yes.

MR. A. C. KIRKMAN.] I only want to speak because it concernns me personally. I am not president of an association and have no political view of the thing, but nearly half of my land is now cut off and put into native area. On that half I live, and my homestead, dipping tank, cultivated lands, etc., are on that portion. It is variously called "Mazoe" and "Herbertsleigh," and reaches down to the Umkomaas. It takes in Lot F.P. 53 and "E.U." I also own "S. 24" and "S. 59." I am living on "Mazoe." I say the whole land is one farm and if this is taken away from me it reduces the value of the remainder considerably, because all my cultivated lands are on this part and it is the only portion useful for winter grazing. The upper portion is simply summer grazing and that is all. It is not land that a native would make anything of. It has taken years to make my lands. It has been by dint of cultivation and fertilizing. If the natives have it it will take him years to get it up to what it is to-day.

Mr. Chapman.] What are the value of improvements on your farm?

Mr. Kirkman.] Say a couple of thousand pounds. Portions are not fenced; there is a lot where natural boundaries answer. I have been there about 20 years.

Mr. Chapman.] Were you consulted at all when that recommendation was made by the Magistrate or any officials?

Mr. Kirkman.] No, not at all.

Mr. Chapman.] When did you find it was included in a recommended area.

Mr. Kirkman.] Well, Mr. Schofield wrote to me from the Cape when the Bill was being discussed. I made no representations to the Magistrate about half of my farm being taken.

The portion right down in the valley is good agricultural land, but it is difficult to get at. The lower portion is my winter grazing and if it is put into a native area it reduces the value of the other portion and I could not borrow money on it.

No, natives have not approached me with a view to buying land. There is some land owned by natives and a little while ago some was sold to a white man.

The Chairman.] Do you think natives would buy land if they had the chance?

Mr. Kirkman.] Well, I really don't think they would.

By Mr. Chapman.] The native has cultivated less than in former years and he has not improved in the least in his methods of cultivation. He will come to you as a servant, but he goes back and sticks to his old style. Wages have been so easy to earn that he prefers to buy his crops than grow them. Yes, natives are going away to labour centres more so than in the past, I should say. Native owners draw rent from their tenants. In the valley the average rent is £2 a hut. I believe those farms are all paid for.

Mr. JOHN MARWICK.] I have not much to add to my evidence. I wish to emphasise that I consider the locations are not full. Any of those I have an intimate knowledge of would hold double the population if they were arranged a bit. At present a native who has lived there 50 years or longer, his father perhaps before him, claims no end of land—perhaps 1,000 or 1,500 acres. It is all his land: no one dare put a plough on it, with the result that he monopolises more land that he needs, and that is taking place all over the locations. If somebody was put in charge to fix those fellows up and apportion the land out to them the locations that I know would hold double the population they do at present and they would have any amount of land to cultivate. If they worked their land properly they would get double the crops they reap. At present they waste and ruin the land.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, they would carry double the population under an improved system.

Five acres would be ample for a family; three should be enough, really.

I do not know any of the locations which would be suitable for cutting up so that a native could have his grazing and arable land in a ring fence. My idea is that they should have communal grazing, and agricultural land also.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think certain portions of the locations lend themselves to that?

Mr. J. Marwick.] They would all lend themselves to that; some much more than others.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think the native would be satisfied?

Mr. J. Marwick.] After a time, when he got accustomed to it. At first he would grumble—especially the man who claims 1,000 acres or more.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] How long do you suppose it would take to re-arrange the locations in this district in the better form of settlement that you have in mind?

Mr J. Marwick.] A couple of years.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] Not longer?

Mr. J. Marwick.] No. Those that are already there could be arranged in one season and at the same time space made for the admission of others from outside.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] Do you foresee any danger in the enforcement of the Bill as it stands, that is the enforcement of that provision laying down that every native servant must be continuously employed. I mean before these locations are arranged as indicated?

Mr. J. Marwick.] Well, that is absurd. I disagree with the idea that a man must be continuously employed. It is only economic conditions which will force that upon them.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] If it is enforced now will any upheaval take place?

Mr. J. Marwick.] I do not think they would come to blows about it, but there would be a lot of grumbling and discontent.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] And those natives who were displaced would have difficulty in finding room?

Mr. J. Marwick.] If arrangements were made there would be no difficulty at all, but naturally those who would have to move would be the drones. I do not think there is a farmer who wants any of his natives to shift if they are any use. The bulk of the farmers could continuously employ all they have at present, even for 12 months on end.

By Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think some of your boys would sooner leave your farm than work for 12 months continuously?

Mr. J. Marwick.] Yes, they would. Any change would dislocate things until they shake down to it. There are any number of farmers who want natives. They cannot take them as rent-payers, but they would be only too pleased to take them as labourers. If they thought they would get a better "baas" they would go. It must not be jumped forward on the natives straight away.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] Yes, it would take two years to allow for 50 to 75 per cent of the population being accommodated.

I do not think the law can be enforced straight away at a moment's notice, but if they gave me a year it would be quite ample to fix it up. None at all of the natives will agree to be continuously employed until economic conditions force them. I do not think the continuous service agitation has emanated from the farmers at all; it is a Free State or Cape idea.

A year would provide for the bulk of the natives being fixed up, but it would have to be under white supervision. The present chiefs in the location would never allot the land fairly or anything like it.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think a year is rather a short time, Mr. Marwick?

Mr. J. Marwick.] I mean a year from the time it has been put into force. My idea is not that the locations should be surveyed into blocks by the surveyors. If so you would have to give each native his lease to his particular plot. I would say a year from the time the land is ready.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] From the point of view of the farmer what would be the effect of enforcing the provision that natives must be continuously employed.

Mr. J. Marwick.] It is going to cause a lot of trouble and friction between the farmer and his servants and loss of labour, possibly, for a time until things shake down into the new groove.

MR. C. E. HANCOCK, J.P.] In regard to the continuous service that Mr. Marwick spoke of, it all depends how this continuous service is construed. Very few farmers keep their natives on the farm for the fun of it The number is being continually added to where natives are to all intents and purposes in continuous service. They pay no rent whatever and they never leave the farm. Sometimes they work for 2, 3 or 5 years and are at times away for a month's holiday or so. I could name you six or eight farms at the present time where that practice is already in operation, and it will be extended. The natives rather like the idea.

There is one point which was not brought up the last time the Committee were here, and that is, supposing when the delimitation is completed and the Bill goes through, the owner (European or native as the case may be) has no option, Sir, so the market for his property is limited. There should be ample compensation provided. Had it been provided for in the Bill at the outset a good deal of the friction which has arisen would never have arisen. Compensation should have been made clearer and on a more liberal scale.

By Mr. Chapman.] I believe it is impracticable to work twelve months continuously. It is for white men; they get holidays or leave.

Mr. Walker.] It has been said here to-day that the locations can carry double the present population, but I would like to point out that in this division two-thirds of the

native population, so if it is a fact that all native servants have to leave the farms there is going to be a quarter of the native population without any land whatever.

Mr. Hancock.] I think it would carry more weight if the Commission recommended that some latitude be allowed in the construction of that word "servant" where he works for one farmer only. My natives would not leave at all and I do not think they should be "servant."

Senator J. SCHOFIELD, J.P.] I think the whole of that portion of the Bill is a copy of an old Cape law which has been taken as the basis of the Bill.

I have the "Gazette" here with your terms of reference, and I wish to speak with regard to the occupation of the native locations in the first place. There is one location which adjoins my farm on two sides of it, *i.e.* Location No. 5. The original extent was, I think, 16,000 acres, but recently a portion of the farm "Water Fall" has, I believe, been added on to the location. The farm "Water Fall" came into the possession of the Government and portions of it have been sold, but there was one piece left which was handed over to the location, I understand.

The Chairman.] I do not think it can be called location: it is Crown Land which comes in the recommended area.

Senator Schofield.] I know it is Crown Lands but I know it was reserved with the idea of adding it to Location No. 5. The suggestion is that it should become native location; that they won't sell it to a white man. We will presume that this schedule is passed and the Bill becomes law; that piece of "Water Fall" will never belong to a white man—it will practically become a part of location.

The Chairmn.] Not actually.

Senator Schofield.] Practically, it does. I am of opinion that location will hold a great many more natives than are on it. I travel through it more or less every month and I have done so for many years. From what I notice about the natives, there is a new class coming out: that many natives of the country are giving up the old pastoral style of living which used to be typical of the kafirs. Many of them, as all you gentlemen are aware, make a practice of going out to work; they go to Durban, to Maritzburg, to the gold mines and the diamond mines and the coal fields, and they come home and spend their money. Few of them, as far as I can learn, ever buy any stock. Their wives do not do as much cultivation as they used to and their wives do less weeding than they used to. You may see them, as I have seen them hundreds of times: they go to Richmond, or to the mills in the neighbourhood of Richmond and they buy meal or they take their own mealies, or mealies they have bought, to the mills to be ground. I think the native is getting out of his old style of living, and particularly so since rinderpest and East Coast Fever. I look upon it that those people who have given up their agricultural and pastoral life will be living more in communities, practically on the same principles as Europeans live in towns in the manufacturing districts, and I take it that if the Native Department be kept up to date that they will provide suitable buildings for this class of native, in portions of locations probably, in order that those people will have comfortable residences. I should not be at all surprised if that view be taken in the course of a few years, but as it is now natives on the locations, so far as I can hear, say so-and-so has no land and that so-and-so has a lot more land than he is supposed to be possessed of and a great deal more land than he ought to, mainly because his father has used it for years back and other people have been unable to get it. Their old lands remain unused and that has interfered with many natives on the locations having gardens.

I don't know the population of this location—you will have the details—but in travelling about through it you will see large areas with nothing on and you will see suitable land in that location, the Lufafa location, No. 5. There is land which hundreds of farmers would like to have. Now there is very little of it under cultivation, certainly not anything like what there should be.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, Sir, it lends itself to there being far more occupiers, but when you speak of closer settlement am I to understand that it is to be cut up into blocks?

Mr. Chapman.] Yes, arable blocks.

Senator Schofield.] Well, Sir, that is a question which is a very difficult one indeed because it seems to me that if you cut it up you will simply have people there who can get a block, whilst there are so many of the class I have alluded to who don't want to cultivate.

I hold here a telegram which I have received just now. It is from Taylor, Himeville —"Sorry unable to come. Express my views to Committee." Mr. V. W. Taylor, who lives at Himeville, has a son on the farm named "Rankelour," and the circumstances connected with this farm will show, I think, the difference between a European holding land and natives. I have known this farm "Rankelour" since 1874 and I have travelled through it, backwards and forwards, many hundreds of times. Originally the farm was private property and simply occupied by natives. It passed through many hands until it came into the possession of Mr. V. W. Taylor. Alongside this farm were several pieces of land which had been taken up by natives under our Crown Land conditions. These

natives could do nothing at all with this land and Mr. Taylor ultimately purchased it, though he was not anxious to purchase it, I know, but he said they fairly tormented him and he knew it would be an addition to his farm for grazing. Well, this farm "Rankelour" is south of the Umkomaas and it is one of the scheduled farms. Mr. Taylor's son, W. J. Taylor, lives on the farm. He is a married man with a family. He has a new house on it and some big sheds, and he has several hundred acres in cultivation. Now, what I wish to draw your attention particularly is that he has all this lump of land in one piece and before it became Mr. Taylor's property the natives did not have one tenth of the land which Mr. Taylor has in his one block under cultivation. There is one place I have ridden through and I do not think there were 20 acres in cultivation where Mr. Taylor has now one block of quite 300 acres. He is getting good crops and he has been doing so ever since he went there. Now, this farm adjoins a farm belonging to Mr. John Marwick, which is practically under similar conditions. It was not occupied until Mr. Marwick got it; now it is fenced in and a big lump of land under cultivation. To show you what a valuable piece of land this is—now I am giving you my own opinion—this is the farm that is used by the Government for experimental purposes for cotton and tobacco growing; it is the particular farm they use as an experimental farm and it has been so for several years. This is the land which the Commission (who never saw the land or came here to take evidence) go and put down—the best of the Ixopo division, which is supposed to be one of the best parts of Natal, and as good a piece of all round land as there is in the Union. As you know, it holds its own at the big shows and also with cattle. One farm which is adjoining this particular location No. 6 is Mr. Freeman's; he was about the biggest prize-winner there was at the recent show. I mention this in order to show the importance of this land they want to put in the scheduled area. Now this farm "Rankelour" and this portion of "Water Fall" which is Mr. Marwick's are farms in a high state of development. Then there is "Dillston" which has been occupied for a number of years and giving crops every year, and Mr. Kirkman's further on. I cannot express myself too strongly in order to show how wrong I think it is that the Commission, the original Commission, should have recommended so much good land occupied by Europeans for inclusion in this scheduled area.

If these farms were unsuitable for European occupation it would be different, but they are farms which are now being proved to be suitable for European occupation. In the same way there were those Kei farms which were referred to by Mr. Gilfillan. Those were farms which were practically under the same conditions as these in the Umkomaas Valley, and I do hope—not only in the interests of Ixopo Division, but in the interests of Natal—that you will do your very best in order to prevent such land getting into native location.

I wish to draw your attention to the Report—the annexures thereto—of the Commission. The Commission appointed assessors to do the work and they seem to have done the work better than the Commission. Mr. Collins was appointed as one. He saw the land and interviewed Farmers' Associations and he came to the conclusion that a lot of land should not be included in native areas. He refers to having met the N. E. T. Farmers' Association and says:—

> "These gentlemen expressed the view that their Association considered the area (above referred to) is too good for natives. It should be kept for the purposes of white settlement. Large irrigation schemes shoud be established, etc., the land given to European settlers. They maintain that the prospects for agricultural farming are enormous, whereas for citrus and other tropical fruit, as well as cotton growing, the soil and climate is unequalled in South Africa."

Now, gentlemen, I think that those remarks may be applied to portions of this district.

Then Mr. Gilfillan (I do not know what he is, but his report is written from the Magistrate's Office in King Williams Town) goes very fully into the matter and gives many details. I think his report is a most valuable one. I must say that I approve very much of this report of Mr. Gilfillan, and I believe from what I know that his report was looked upon as being a very important one indeed—I have heard the opinion expressed by someone who knows.

I think it is my duty to lay certain opinions before you and I particularly wish to get your attention to that point: the change in the habits of natives, who go out working and spend their money. Their wives do not do anything and they appear to be breaking off from the old kafir style of living. Such being the case, these people won't want to have a little farm laid off for each of them in the locations.

By the Chairman.] Yes, I certainly think these people who go out working want a place to live on. There are lots of places for them; they can get on locations. There is ample room for those people on locations and particularly, Mr. Mackenzie, if the Government instead of letting things slide will only go in for something to keep them living as they were where they worked, where they have first-class residences. If something of that kind were adopted by the Government I believe that it would be greatly to the benefit and improvement of the natives themselves.

My natives are there to work for me and nobody else. They pay no rent and I think the practice is very general in this Division and in Richmond.

As far as I understand it, one reason for this Bill is that in the Transvaal there are some tribes with a lot of money. Individuals who had been working on the mines subscribed and they bought tracts of land and the community was getting in a fright. In 1882, when the Crown Lands were opened, the kafirs were wealthy and they had an opportunity of buying. Now very few of them have decent troops of cattle and the land is five times 10s. They cannot get it under 50s.

Mr. Mackenzie.] Well, the native has progressed with the land.

Senator Schofield.] He has progressed in the way of spending money and earning more wages—especially spending it. I think there will be very little buying of land by natives.

By Mr. Chapman.] They may buy small pieces of land, but they won't buy any small pieces of land which are useful for Europeans because there is a very great demand by Europeans for land. From what I hear the Land Board has a very great number of applicants.

Mr. Chapman.] What is the prairie value of land in the Umkomaas Valley?

Senator Schofield.] I am trustee for a farm opposite this farm of Taylors. It is a farm of 5,070 or 5,090 acres in extent and it is for sale at £2 5s. an acre.

Mr. Chapman.] I ask you because the natives say they do not want the country; that it is baboon country.

Senator Schofield.] No, I do not think you would get "Rankelour" for £2 5s. an acre. I know there has been an offer for it at a much higher price. I know you would not get it at that price. I tell you this land opposite is for sale at £2 5s. an acre, but it would not be for sale only for the fact that the heirs are wanting their share of the property. If that farm belonged to anyone in this room you would not get it for £2 5s. an acre. If it were not for private reasons that farm would not be for sale at the price, but probably at £3 10s. or perhaps more than that.

Mr. Fannin.] I would just like to give my views on the whole thing. I dislike the Bill altogether. I contend that this measure is highly contentious, that it is imprudent to bring in the Bill at all at this time: that the matter should be left until after the war, at least.

I am strongly of opinion that there is sufficient land for the natives' needs already set aside in the locations and mission reserves. I feel that the native should be encouraged to make a proper use of the land by giving him some permanent individual tenure and teaching him to use it in the proper manner. That, I contend, should be the policy of the Government. Again, I am of opinion that when further lands may be required for native occupation these should be acquired from time to time by purchase and in no other way. It should be arranged that land may not be sold by natives to other than natives, and by other than natives to natives unless with the consent of the Governor-General in Council, giving the control of land where it is changing from white to black and *vice versâ*.

Mr. Chapman.] If this Bill is carried, this large European area, which is a white area to-day, can never become, strictly speaking, a native area.

Mr. Fannin.] I say except with the consent of the Governor-General-in-Council. In the course of time, without any drastic change, these things will automatically adjust themselves. A native will not like living with whites around him, and *vice versâ*. I do not think that further segregation is required, except in townships and industrial centres, where provision should be made for natives to live close to their work.

Mr. A. V. Allan.] I gave my evidence pretty fully, but there is one thing I would like to point out: there are certain farms held by the Government at the present time, Crown Lands, in between those farms which are presently owned and occupied by Europeans. Well, I think it would be highly undesirable for the Government to allow those farms to become native areas. It means this—that the European farmers adjoining them are going to be encircled by all the blacklegs of the districts and it is going to be very unfortunate for them—such as Mr. Marwick, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Irvins and myself. We are in between them, one in extent 1,100 acres and the other 1,500 acres, which would practically mean a harbour for all the bad characters of the district and it would be very undesirable. Those lots are very suitable for European occupation and have been applied for several times, but the Government won't allot them.

There are small farms down towards the Rhodes' lots which we decided to leave as they were, as a native area, but this block from Bromham Hall to Dillston should certainly be retained as a European area. It is worthless from the native point of view, gentlemen, because they can only live on the river bed. They cannot live inland on account of the water and they are very much handicapped by that.

Mr. J. Marwick.] I wish to emphasise the point raised by Mr. Allan as to the exclusion of these Crown Lands from the native area. They would be a harbour for all the scum from farms. If the land was thrown open for Europeans it would be taken up at once. I would not sell my land there for less than £3 or £3 10s. an acre. It is all worth about the same.

MR. F. A. FARRER (Magistrate, Ixopo).] I feel that I would like to a certain extent to correct my evidence given before the Commission at Port Shepstone. The evidence given by myself and the three gentlemen who were selected to represent this division is practically the same. The Commission included all this land on this side of Location 8 and from

Mr. Howes up to the Hlokozi as a native area. We recommended that land should become a native area. Since giving that evidence conditions have changed very considerably. This great war has come about; our sons have gone to do their little bit and when they return to this country (we hope they will, some of them) we hope there will be land for them to settle on. The natives have been given the opportunity recently to assist in this great struggle; they have treated the request with the utmost indifference, in fact from their behaviour they did not care whether the Germans win or not. Well, charity begins at home and I think that the natives are not deserving of the consideration that we thought they were deserving of when we gave our evidence and made our recommendations before the Commission at Port Shepstone.

I think there is no doubt that the locations, owing to the way they have been allowed to squat on them, have been wasted. I might say that years ago when certain location regulations were proposed Magistrates were circularised as to any suggestions they might wish to make. I remember that in my recommendations I then pointed out the unsatisfactory conditions which existed as regards the squatting or the building by natives on locations, *i.e.*, that a native simply applied for leave to build in a location. He was brought along by the chief and selected his own site to build his kraal in one place and he cultivated in a nice little valley perhaps two or three miles away and probably wasted a lot of grazing ground. That was in the days when Mr. Samuelson was in office. Well, no notice was taken of that. Later on, since Union, I was asked if I could suggest a scheme for saving the lands and making more use of them. I submitted a scheme then for Location No. 6.

I think that the native locations at the present time, if they were properly arranged, could accommodate all the natives. The time has passed when a native could just get land, acres and acres of it, to cultivate. I think that if the locations could be arranged and cut up into holdings, *i.e.* just to give them a permanent holding on which they would feel they are safe, it would remove a lot of distrust or insecurity the natives have at present. That is, that the building sites be cut up and the cultivating plots cut up and the grazing area fixed.

I feel very strongly on this. I think we have got to realise that when these fellows who are fighting for us and for the safety of these natives come back here we should be in a position to give them land. The natives in their recent behaviour have proved themselves utterly undeserving of the consideration we thought they were when we made those recommendations. I think if some sort of a scheme could be brought about whereby the native could be allotted a plot to live and some land for cultivation it would give them a feeling of security and they would realise then that to exist they have got to work. They would feel they were secure as regards their homestead, that they were permanently secure, and I think by degrees they would go out and work to earn money to keep themselves going. I think, generally speaking, it might improve the labour supply from this division. As regards this recent call for recruits, we have something between 55,000 and 60,000 natives in this division and 6 have gone forward.

By Mr. Marwick.] In Location No. 8, that portion supplied by the Umhalbatshana is well watered. On the eastern side of the road to St. Faith's it is very well watered and the soil is very good, *i.e.* beyond High Flats. On the other side it is very rugged and very badly watered. Of course, the Umzimkulu River bounds it on the one side. On the Umzimkulu there is most excellent land; you could not get better land anywhere. It is only a matter of a water scheme and you would grow the finest crops of anything you like. On the tops it is badly watered and something would have to be done, but it is excellent grazing for goats and cattle.

In Location No. 7 it is very well watered and down along the Umtwalumi Valley there is excellent land and you could take the water out for irrigation purposes, in fact there is a very fine stream going to the Hlokozi with a fine fall: the water could be diverted to almost any part of the location.

Location No. 5 is very rough, but along the river valley the land is very fertile. At the present time, taking the whole area, perhaps half may be under cultivation—under native cultivation; we all know what that is.

In Location No. 6, out Springvale way, there is a stream which runs right through practically the middle of the location. There is magnificent land between this stream and the Springvale Mission Station and all fairly flat, in fact it is all flat.

By Mr. Chapman.] The rainfall in the Umkomaas is very irregular. This last year they have had a good fall.

The lower portion of Location No. 3, at this end, is excellent land. They grow wonderful crops of corn there with just the native scratching. The other portion is stony and only fit for grazing, but very good grazing.

The whole of these locations are thoroughly healthy, every one of them. There is no fever in the Umkomaas Valley, but it is very hot.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there an increase or decrease in pastoral pursuits on the part of the native?

Mr. Farrer.] There is an increase. There are numbers and numbers of applications waiting to bring cattle in to Location 8. I think agricultural activity is slightly on the

increase, especially with natives who have purchased land, more particularly in this area between the Umzimkulu and the High Flats—Umzimkulu Road. They are going out in larger numbers to work than they did in the past.

The Chairman.] Do you notice if the men who go out to work come back regularly?

Mr. Farrer.] More so than at first. They do not disappear so much.

By Mr. Marwick.] There are no figures as to the estimated annual increase beyond the births and deaths register and the census taken some years ago. Yes, births and deaths are registered. The Births Register is sent at the end of every year to the Native Affairs Department; it is not kept in this Office.

Report of Native Evidence taken at Ixopo, after termination of meeting with Europeans.

Mr. Farrer introduced the Committee and explained the reason of their appointment.

The scope of the duties of the Committee were explained to the assembly by Mr. Marwick.

Chief MANDADHLA.] We have repeatedly put our views before you respecting the hardships we are subjected to on private lands. We came here to-day thinking we would be shown the land we have been wanting. I myself do not understand all that has been said to-day. I only thought I was coming here to be shown the land we need.

Chief MSKOFINI.] We have only questions that we wish to place before the Government. We were asking the Government to give us locations to enable us to put our families on; that is the only request we have been making to Government. That is all I have to say.

The assembly is informed that the Committee is not going round to allot further locations.

Chief BANGIZWE.] Why should there be a movement to put the natives on one side and the Europeans on the other? We wish to be allowed to remain as we are. The only thing we want is an increase of location land, as the natives on private lands are very much troubled.

Chief MAKAMBA.] I have heard the questions interpreted by Mr. Marwick. We do not plough and we have no stock. If we get cattle we do not know where to put them. We have no stock on account of our living on farms and having no locations.

JAMES MTEMBU.] We are sorry to hear of Mr. Evans' illness and we are sorry he is not here to-day. We are glad to see some other gentlemen have taken up his work. I will relate all that I hear from other natives.

The grievance the natives have is that they cannot shift from farm to farm except as a labourer without paying rent. They prefer to pay rent so that they can work where they like and come back with money to pay rent. They wish to have the opportunity of buying any land, either from Europeans or natives, and not to be barred by having restrictions in certain areas. There are two different classes of natives now: one class that has the intelligence to cultivate their land and the other class who follow the old methods. The first class want arable lands that they can put under the plough and manure. The other class want locations to plough up at will as they did in the olden days. They say that the land in the locations is very restricted. There is always quarelling over their gardens, and also no room for their cattle and goats. That is the grievance that the natives have. They want Government to give them a wide area, as they are increasing and will continue to do so. They also want room for their children to buy land. That is what I hear of the natives' grievance.

Headman MAGEBE (representing TITI).] I have not much to say. Lots of grievances are being laid before the Government. I have heard the question as to whether we are ploughing or buying food, or of our stock is increasing. The fences are at our very doors. The boundaries that Mr. Chadwick showed us are not observed and fences are now at our doors. We see no results to all our requests. The boundaries which were shown us of locations we cannot see now, the fences are put right beyond the original boundary. The location which belonged to the chief Titi is now the size of the fire-place and not as it was originally. We respected the Government because we looked to it to settle all our grievances, but we do not see that any help is extended to us. That is all I have to say.

SEBEGULA (representing HOLELA'S Tribe).] The only grievance is that the Government children have no place on which to live. We are increasing, and there are young ones getting married who have no place to live. The Government has taken and sold land which ought to have been given over to its children. The main thing that we want is locations wherein we can live.

PHILIP NTABA.] The question that the natives discuss is that there is no peaceful living because they are not allowed to live as rent-paying tenants. The grievance is that

they have to render service and are not allowed to live as rent payers. The old custom was that a native could pay rent and pay where he liked. The new regulation is that a native cannot leave the farm he is on and work; he must work for his landlord. Natives do not like these new regulations. It amounts to colour legislation. The old regulation during Queen Victoria's reign had no distinction of colour.

The natives want the locations they are on to be increased. They do not want to be taken away from them and put in another place. Whatever mistrust exists is caused by this colour question. We have one King for all—King George. Let us have one law in the same manner that we have one King. On these farms there are children who are not being educated. We would like to see those people with natives on their farms have the children educated, then we would see that there is no distinction.

JEREMIAH MTAKA.] I thought you had come to discuss the question of segregation, which came about on the establishment of Union. That message which I thought was being brought I have not heard even until now. Our chiefs have represented their grievances, whereas the subject of discussion is the question of segregation. This principle of segregation is one which I have not yet been able to understand, although I have made many enquiries from Europeans as to the meaning and purpose of it. That is one of the reasons why the chiefs deal chiefly with their grievances—they do not understand this law of segregation. If they did understand this segregation law they would have answered probably on the lines which the Committee desired. I think, therefore, the law should be explained to them and the purpose and direction of it so that their replies would be more to the point. Ever since the introduction of this law natives have not understood its principles, nor have I. When Union was brought about we had expected we should be one people, but on the contrary the law of segregation has been introduced. Through my failing to understand this law I came to the conclusion that the Government intends to introduce an era of misunderstanding between ourselves. I think for that reason that the old Natal Government was preferable to the Union Government. These people here present know nothing about this law, yet they understand the laws of Natal. The Committee cannot fail to see that the replies they have had to it are quite apart from the subject they have come here to investigate. If I had been allowed to be the spokesman for this gathering I should have made the request that all the laws of the Union should be abolished and the old Natal Government come into existence. If I understand the meaning rightly of the word "Union" it means that five or ten different things are united into one. I had thought on that ground that we should be made to understand the institutions of the white people and when appealed to to go over-seas we should have gone as a united people. The British Empire would have added strength by that fact.

Should it be impossible for us to revert to the old Natal regime we would prefer to be governed by the Imperial Government. That is our earnest desire—to be governed by the Imperial Government.

NKANI (Headman of Chief HARRY OGLE).] We people of Harry Ogle were never allotted a location. We received a piece of land very small indeed. In addition to that a law came into effect that land must be bought. Owing to our not having a location we bought land. We bought small portions of land, having a want of confidence at that time, because we did not know that land could be bought. From time to time we had various disappointments in connection with the purchase of land, on some occasions finding that the land which we imagined was our own had been bought over our heads or under our feet. We experienced a great deal of trouble because, although we bought land, it was insufficient to provide for expansion, and with the increase of our families the land is altogether too small for our needs. We are at a loss to know what to do because our father, the chief, is without a location. He has a piece of land sufficient only for one kraal. We are at a loss to know what will be done next. We hope the Government will do something to help us. It would grant us relief if there were any spaces in which we could still buy, if one were fortunate enough to have an industrious child and be able to buy additional land.

MHLUMELA (Chief SIMITI'S representative).] I think the proceedings would have been considerably shortened had the natives first been informed of the purpose of the Committee's visit and had an opportunity of discussing it amongst themselves. Then one spokesman could have been elected. Great matters have been spoken of that have nothing to do with the matter under investigation, and this could have been avoided had the natives discussed the matter amongst themselves at the beginning.

QOMINTABA (a land-owner).] We have heard the object of the Committee's visit here to-day. The chiefs complain of the small size of their locations, a complaint they have long had. We are no longer following pastoral pursuits. We have no cattle because the country has been bought by the farmers and we do not possess the same number of stock that we did before. It would be a good thing if the Committee could investigate our position and report to the Government and the Government could come to a decision satisfactory to us. With regard to the suggestion that we should bring forward any matter that was left over from the previous sitting of the Committee, we feel we are at a disadvantage because we have not been informed beforehand of the matters that would be discussed to-day. The only complaint that we wish to bring forward is with regard to the

insufficiency of the native locations. Residence on farms leads to the impounding of stock. Natives living on my farm even have their stock impounded.

DABULA CILIZA (representing Chief GADUPI).] I am an uneducated native, but there is one matter which was brought forward by the natives with regard to which I heartily approve, *i.e.* that there should be no separation between the white people and the natives, but that we should live as we have done since he days of Sir Theophilus Shepstone.

QALIZWE MAJOLO (Policeman of Chief DIDI).] With regard to the subjects of the Committee's enquiry, I wish to say that we have no place for our stock nor have we any areas which we can cultivate. We live under conditions which lead to quarrelling amongst ourselves. In the location I was the owner of 30 goats, but they have been reduced to the number of 7 owing to the fact that I am living in such a small area. In the location there is no area upon which stock can be kept. The point upon which I am dissatisfied is that any additional native area set apart by the Government would have to be acquired by purchase by the natives. If a gift is being made it should be given in a proper manner and we should not have to pay for it.

Copy.

"Deasland," Glenbain P.O.,
10th February, 1918.

G. I. Mackenzie, Esq., J.P.,
Chairman, Natives' Land Committee,
"Buccleuch," *viâ* Pietersmaritzburg.

Dear Sir,

I am not certain if my remarks about native labourers when giving evidence before your Committee at Ixopo were sufficiently plain, and I would be glad if you can please include the enclosed notes with my evidence as I think the suggestion is practicable and it will prove to be successful if properly carried out.

Yours truly,

(Signed) JAMES SCHOFIELD.

Additional to my evience before Natives' Land Committee at Ixopo:—

With further reference to my remarks about the changing habits and conditions of a large class of natives who have given up the old pastoral style of living and have taken to what may be called industrial labour as their regular occupation and who, although married, prefer to work in mines, workshops and various industries for wages with which to maintain their families rather than continue in the old tribal way of living, and who may now be looked upon as a labouring class quite distinct from the occasional workers—I am of opinion that the Government should make provision for the formation of villages and the erection of blocks of cottages in the various locations where there is so much room for such communities of natives who want a living place, and on the same principle as obtains—with suitable alterations—in most industrial parts of the world. The adoption of this system would provide living places for large populations on the native locations and would avoid the proposed interference with so much land now in European occupation.

(Signed) JAMES SCHOFIELD.

Report of Evidence taken at Impendhle, Natal, on 9th October, 1917.

European witnesses heard in the Agricultural Hall, at 11 a.m. Mr. G. Brunton-warner, Magistrate, Impendhle, present.

Mr. A. K. STONE.] On the occasion of the visit of the Evans-Chapman Committee to Loteni I was representing the Loteni and Inzinga Farmers' Association. I am instructed to confirm all we said before that Commission and I now do so. I would also point out very strongly that we do not think that country is native area. I won't go over all the points again; you have them all recorded in evidence.

Mr. C. J. LAURENS.] Beyond confirming what Mr. Stone has said there is no need for me to add anything.

Mr. W. J. FLY, J.P.] As regards the Zwaartkop Location, we should like to say there are 60,000 acres with very few natives, and they grow practically nothing. The

present population do not grow enough for their own wants and it is splendid ground for European farms and closer settlement by Europeans.

Mr. Stone.] The location here (the Impendhle), as far as you can see by riding through it, if the natives would farm in a more progressive manner it would carry double the present population easily; but in the way they scratch about now, if they had double the quantity of ground it would not increase their output.

The whole of those flats would cut up very nicely into smaller blocks for natives. The trouble is all the land here requires fertilizer to grow anything. The natives use nothing; their habit is to break up fresh ground every year. A white man put there would grow 15 bags of mealies per acre easily. Under proper supervision the location would maintain double or treble the present population.

Mr. C. Laurens.] It would be a good thing to split up these locations and give each head of a kraal his plot. There is very little encouragement for them now to improve their properties and if this scheme was carried out and their plots made freehold I think it would have a tendency to improve the natives' methods all round. That is my opinion.

Mr. D. Tootell.] Surely these locations ought to be filled before the land of Europeans is taken over. It is lovely land.

Mr. Stone.] (*By Mr. Chapman.*) Two farms have changed hands since your last visit—from European to European. No land has reverted, as far as I know. A lot has reverted during the last few years, but I do not know of any recently. No European farms have been sold to natives, and never will be.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] No, I do not think they will be sold to natives; they were there before the white man and bought the eyes of the country—the river beds. The white man bought the grazing; the natives did not want it.

By Mr. Chapman.] I believe the native crops were good on the whole. My stock wintered exceptionally well, in fact it is a record season for stock. Rains we got here in August and there were no deaths—perhaps an odd one or two, but nothing to speak of—and there are prospects of a very fine lambing season.

Mr. P. LAURENS.] To my mind the native is a man that to get any progress out of him you want a kind of sjambok after him. It is my sincere belief that you will never get them to improve on their present methods by persuasion. If you give him land you want to give him a piece where he can go on growing magnificent crops year after year with the old style of scratching. There is no doubt that with progressive methods this could be made into a very fine area, but not in our lifetime. The only progress that I have seen is that you see little children ploughing, and yet they manage to live. There is no doubt the valley is a good valley (meaning the Inzinga), but the native is too indolent.

Mr. D. Tootell.] The natives nowadays do not grow as many mealies as they did when the old women hoed. They get youngsters to plough.

Mr. C. Laurens.] When I went up to the Loteni 20 years ago we bought mealies at 5s. and 6s. a bag.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, the natives at no time bought any high land there. They just picked out the eyes of the country—the lands in the river beds. It was an eye-sore to me to see it. An odd ambitious native or so might buy a little for his stock if the country was opened, but they would just pick out the eyes again.

Mr. Stone.] Most people find 2,000 acres a fair-sized farm, but being purely pastoral we have to get a bit more than that. It is purely pastoral grazing land in our part and the little bits of land which we cultivate have to be made by heavy manuring. I could not get a native tenant to live on my part ("Malungana") if I paid him £5 a year; yet it is good grazing.

Mr. C. Laurens.] On the other hand, these little plots if they were available to Europeans would be the making of some of their farms—if they had this arable land in the valley. I am not speaking for myself, because I have my own agricultural land.

Dr. HENSIN.] I can confirm what the others have said. I have lived here 20 years and I have got quite the idea that the farmers are an intelligent community. I know the whole of the magisterial area quite well and I am quite convinced that if given training and education in the way of agriculture it does not seem credible to me that the natives would take advantage of it. I do not think the raw native could be compelled to learn European methods, and the only inducement I can see would be hunger.

Mr. W. J. Fly, J.P.] Those areas round about Deepdale would suit natives down to the ground. They always seem to have plenty of food there, and usually sell a lot. That is the country natives revel in. They do well there, and have always plenty of money to buy stock.

Mr. A. K. Stone (By Mr. Chapman).] Yes, those native owners in the Loteni Valley have quite a number of native tenants: they are crowded out with them.

By Mr. Marwick.] I should say the cultivation by natives is probably on the increase in our locality. Of course every tenant they get does a bit more cultivating on the land. In a very good season they grow enough for their own use: in an ordinary season they have to supplement.

I think there is an increase as regards pastoral pursuits on the part of the natives. We have not been wiped out by tick fever, in fact we have only had one or two isolated cases.

I should think their going away to labour centres would be on the increase; a good number go to Johannesburg and large labour centres.

As a whole I think the natives are poorer than they were 10 years ago.

Mr. P. Laurens.] If you say 20 years ago they are altogether poorer; they owned a lot of stock in those days.

Mr. Chapman.] Their stock are increasing in view of the fact that they are dipping?

Mr. A. K. Stone.] Yes, they are all dipping, but they lose a lot of cattle from poverty and carelessness.

There is very little inclination to sell their surplus stock. The only way you can buy oxen from them is by exchange.

Mr. Marwick.] In the present terms of reference of this Committee we are authorised to consider the desirability of neutral areas being recognised, *i.e.* areas in which both natives and non-natives would be allowed to buy. You will remember the previous Committee had no power to deal with any such question as that. What is your view about that? Is there any area in this district which would come within this description?

Mr. Stone.] I think at the previous sitting of the Commission I was asked practically the same question; that was—in what way we could compromise the question, and we then said that if we were left as we were at present we would all be quite satisfied. The land, I am quite convinced, will eventually all belong to Europeans, but it will come about gradually and in the ordinary course of business. If this area were left alone it would eventually become almost a white area; I am sure of it. The native owners were more numerous years ago; they squabble and get into the hands of the lawyers; the land goes and the adjoining farmer very often gets it.

What I think is felt a great hardship in all these districts that have been demarcated for native areas are the terms on which it is proposed to take over. If we had a cut-and-dried arrangement put before us: "Are you willing to sell your farm for so-and-so, or are you willing to let Government have it for a valuation?" it would be quite a different thing. But we are simply told we may not sell it to an European if it falls in a native area, and it is straightway cutting down the value of that farm by at least 25 per cent. I would like to put it more, but I am sure of that. I would never sell that portion of my farm to a native, and if I wanted to sell it to the Minister for Native Affairs he would say: "The man who cut off that land is mad; it is of no use for a native area." The terms are very difficult for anyone to consent to, because we are quite convinced the natives would never buy that land if it were native area. If it was suitable for them they might, but it is absolutely unsuitable.

I think you can hardly expect honest dealing from people when they are concerned in this matter.

Mr. C. Laurens.] I can put down the estimate of depreciation of value of land at 75 per cent. I think Mr. Stone's estimate is very light.

Native witnesses heard in the grounds of the Magistrate's Court-House.

NOYUKA ZUMA (of Chief MAFAHLENI'S Tribe).] With regard to the recommended area which has been indicated to us, we wish to say that the whole of the land has already been acquired by different purchasers, and it is composed of native-owned farms sufficient for the individual purchasers only. Even had that land not been bought by individual purchasers, there is no land there upon which any cultivation could be carried out. In our experience, even in times of scarcity (when we have had necessity to buy food) we have never been able to buy food from there.

With regard to our beneficial occupation of the land, we have constantly to buy food from outside our own location—in the direction of Maritzburg. In regard to the location, it is densely populated, and we have great difficulty in growing sufficient food for that reason.

In regard to pastoral pursuits, our space in that direction has become limited of late years through the influx of natives into location who have been removed from private farms.

When we have to buy food the price of a bag of mealies in the earliest part of the season is even high.

We have losses among the cattle through poverty which is occasioned by the fact that grazing land has now been occupied by natives who have come from private farms. Even as I speak there are natives who are building their huts in the location, but it is quite evident that there will be no arable land for the kraals and no room for the cattle.

The conditions under which we live on the farms are the payment of rent and the rendering of service. Many natives who have been removed from the farms have been removed notwithstanding the fact that their rent has been paid.

Mr. Chapman.] He is referring to farms, I take it, outside the recommended area.

Noruka.] I am speaking of the farms generally.

UMSHESHWA RENA (a Basuto farm-owner and Induna to LUSIZA).] With regard to the recommended area, we welcome the principle of buying that land for grazing purposes, because we have insufficient land for our needs, especially for horses. My Chief, Lusiza, whom I represent, was desirous of hiring land for grazing purposes, but the Government did not grant his application. We live in a low-lying portion of the division, which is unhealthy for horses and sheep.

Our request is that in regard to the recommended area we should buy from the Government, the Government having bought the farms from the present European owners, because the Europeans would expect payment within a limited time and we should not be able to get advantageous terms of payment from them.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I am a land-owner. I have native tenants on my farm—5 kraals who pay rent. It is the custom to have rent-paying tenants, but there is always difficulty in securing payment of rent. My tenants pay £2 per hut per annum, each July. No, there are no Crown lands available for grazing in this area.

SIKUNI NGIDI (representing MAKUBALO, who is the Induna of Chief MANDHLAKAYISE).] My Chief's father, Mqawe, originally bought a large farm in this district, but it has been considerably reduced by purchase on the part of Europeans, and that has resulted in the farm being overcrowded by natives who elected to come within its boundaries. The natives who have left farms and come to live on our farms are overcrowded and lack space for ploughing purposes.

The removal of natives from farms has been occasioned by, amongst other things, the increased cultivation on the part of Europeans. They make use of the arable land that was formerly in the use of the native tenants, and on that ground desire the removal of the tenants.

We would be very glad if additional land could be set apart within which natives could buy, and a definite area pointed out for the Europeans, because under present conditions the locations are so closely populated that if a man goes to relieve nature he is observed by his next door neighbour.

The conditions under which we lived in the time of Sir Theophilus Shepstone were widely different and much to be preferred to those under which we live to-day; now, wire fences restrict us in every way and we have to travel long distances instead of going by a direct route. Our conditions have been much altered for the worse latterly.

We hope that the matter will be carefully considered and some relief granted. We find that even the few cattle we have never attain to proper condition. They are thin, even at this time of the year, and they remain thin until winter comes and then die.

uJIYEZA MHLANGU (of Chief MAFAHLENI'S Tribe).] I would like to add to what has been said by Sikuni by pointing out that the beacons of locations laid down by Sir Theophilus Shepstone have now fallen within private farms. The location which was set apart for us was granted to us because of services rendered in driving out the Bushmen, who were cattle raiding. We would be glad if, in connection with this question, it could be considered whether our beacons have been properly observed.

By Mr. Marwick.] The line joining Mr. Roberts' farm is not the line that was originally laid off by Sir Theophilus Shepstone.

By Mr. Chapman.] Was not another piece of land given in place of that?

uJiyeza.] A portion of the Impendhle Hill was pointed out to us, because that hill already belonged to us.

(Witness is told that he is wrong, and that a piece of land was given in exchange for Roberts' farm.)

Chief MAFAHLENI.] That is our grievance. We maintain that the very portion which we gave was in our location originally. Even before Roberts came our boundary went straight down to the Umkomanzi; there was no break in it at all.

(It is here pointed out that the farm "Roberts" was bought from the Land and Colonization Co. even before the location was surveyed.)

uJiyeza.] The beacon was never erected on Impendhle until Roberts took over the farm. Our complaint is that when the demarcation of beacons took place it was done without reference to any native people who knew the beacons, and that was when the encroachment took place. It was brought to the notice of the Magistrate, when Mr. Boast was here, and he promised that the matter would be looked into, but he was transferred. We refer to Mr. Boast because he firmly supported our view that the boundary of the location was one that ran straight down to the Umkomanzi; it had no break in it. We have not raised the matter since Mr. Boast left.

(The assembly is informed that the matter will be represented to the Surveyor-General and a reply sent to their Magistrate in due course.)

ALBERT MOLIFE.] With regard to the question of neutral areas, it seems to me impossible for a native to be found rich enough to buy a farm that has been improved by a European, and for that reason I cannot see any objection to the existing conditions being allowed to continue, *i.e.* that we should live and buy as we are doing at present.

Mr. Chapman.] Does he think that that would meet with the other native residents of that area?

A. Molife.] I cannot speak for others, but I know there is a desire on the part of my neighbours to buy land. We find that the land we possess is insufficient for the grazing of our cattle. Personally I should be glad if there were additional land which I could buy. If we had permission to buy land there are small pieces of Crown land which we would be able to acquire.

Mr. Chapman.] They understand, of course, that they would not be able to buy in community.

A. Molife.] Yes, I understand a limit has been placed upon the communal purchase of land. I should much prefer to buy individually. I have myself 1,015 acres of grazing land and 177 acres of arable land at present. That ground is insufficient for me because a considerable portion of it is so broken that it is even unsuitable for grazing, except small stock. I had 400 sheep, but I lost a good many. The arable land is too small for me to grow food for sheep.

Mr. Chapman.] Is not that because he takes a lot of tenants on?

A. Molife.] No, I have no tenants; not one. I have one man living on my farm who pays rent. I wanted him to work, but he would not.

Mr. Chapman.] But he has other tenants who work?

A. Molife.] No, I have no labour tenants.

Mr. Chapman.] He has 177 acres arable land; what does he do with it?

A. Molife.] I plough all the arable land, but there is a good deal of that 177 acres stony. We would be very glad if additional areas were available for purchase.

Report of Evidence taken at Tugela Estate, Weenen Division, on October 23rd, 1917.

Mr. THACKERAY J. ALLISON.] If you offered me any one of those farms in this recommended area north of Tugela I would not give you 7s. 6d. an acre for them. Those farms in that area are only fit for grazing.

As it stands, "Vredemburg" is no use unless you have the bottom land to carry stock in the winter.

The land is good but unless you can get water on to it it is useless. It would never pay a man to take our water for a very small area, and in most cases the taking out of water is a prohibitive proposition.

"Masemeseme" is a very rough farm. It has a rent-roll and a few natives, but they do not pay their rents.

Mr. W. G. RANDLES (Managing Director of Tugela Estates, Ltd.).] That area around "Darkest Africa" is the roughest part of the thorn country I have been in. I have shot over the whole place, so I speak from personal experience. I used to own "Rutland" and "Winter Poort"; the country there is the roughest of the roughest and, generally speaking, it is very badly watered. That was my reason for selling. My farm was the only one which had water on it. That was 15 years ago. There are only tiny patches of arable land on those farms and many of them have to water their cattle at the Tugela River. I believe most of the owners in that area have great difficulty in getting labour from their farms. Here, on our own farm "Vredemburg," we pay full wages—30s. or whatever is the current wage at the time. We say: "You have to give us the option of taking your services. If we do not want you you can go elsewhere." That has worked very successfully so far, but how long it will continue I cannot say.

Naturally, with the acreage of arable land we have, we must have an acreage of hinterland to make it available for stock. That is why we have put forward our contention to have "Vredemburg" included also. We are doing it for the benefit of our company.

The length of our water furrow is 10 miles; it is 8 feet wide and 2 feet deep, and the subsidiary furrows alone on this block of 800 acres are approximately 10 miles. We have between 1,500 and 1,600 acres under the furrow.

We have 220 acres of lucerne and the whole of that 1,500 acres is under crop. We completed our operations last season.

We have also started to stock the back farm, "Vredemburg," with a good type of breeding cattle. Money has been subscribed by the shareholders for this purpose, and when we are fully stocked our numbers will approximate 2,200. That is the number we intend to work up to and which we consider, at the present moment, we can run. Of course, our efforts can be supplemented during the winter months by purchasing store stock at the end of autumn and disposing of them in the spring. That, of course, is apart from the ranching operations already alluded to.

We have erected one tank on "Vredemburg" and intend to erect several more tanks. We intend to have at least four more tanks on the property. As soon as fencing material

is again at a reasonable price we intend to fence the whole property. The "Tugela Estates" is entirely fenced and sub-divided, *i.e.* the Kafir Drift portion

There are no buildings on "Vredemburg" except a native church.

We ask that our portion of "Vredemburg" and the 700 odd acres of "Mhlumayo" (which the Government exchanged for a portion of "Vredemburg") may be excluded from the native area.

Report of Evidence taken in the Magistrate's Court, Estcourt, Natal, on 25th October, 1917.

Mr. R. M. K. CHADWICK.] All that land in Weenen County is suitable for natives. It is all occupied by natives, and I think it could carry more natives than at present, but won't in another 10 years or so, when they increase.

I still own "Hampden Green." In dry weather there is a great scarcity of water in that locality, also on and around the farm "Darkest Africa." It is also very stony there; the arable land is in patches. There is not a large percentage of arable land in that area; I should say that 5 per cent. at the outside is arable. They get good crops in that area once in seven years. Cattle and goats do splendidly down there; the grazing is splendid. "Darkest Africa" changed hands twice before it reverted back to the Crown. The holders said it was too stony, and one could not make a living there.

In my opinion, I do not think natives would buy land there. It is not at all suitable for cutting up into small blocks. It is good for ranching cattle; the grass is sweet and good, and cattle are always fat there. Natives would only buy patches where they could cultivate.

I do not think Government could put a much larger native population in that area than there is to-day. What available land there is is either cultivated or lying fallow, as they do not use manure. If you could manure and continue doing so, year in and year out, there is room for more. The land does not lend itself to closer settlement at all. Taking it altogether, I think that block is very well populated with natives.

Senator H. D. WINTER.] Those farms will hold more natives. The reason they are not there is that they have had differences with their landlords.

Mr. R. M. K. Chadwick.] There is no room in that area for natives who may be dispossessed in other parts of the Division. Men who want just sitting room could find it there. There is squatting room, but not if they want arable or grazing land.

Mr. Marwick.] If natives were seeking just a living place with their cattle, how many more do you think that area would accommodate?

Mr. Chadwick.] I would not consider it advisable to put any more natives there, considering their natural increase. In another 5 or 10 years or so there would not be room. If you are going to give each hut half an acre or an acre there might be room for more. My own opinion is that many of these thorn farms are fit for European occupation.

Senator Winter.] "Dawn" and "Bergvieuw" belong to me. I would like you to put the question to me why I have been unable to get natives to live on that land. There are no natives on that land there, except at the sources of the Manxibitwana, where there are a few lepers. The soil is porous and loose there. When I was in office in the early days I had that portion surveyed off for a game reserve and planting trees. There has never been a Kafir on that part to my knowledge, and I have been in the county since 1875 and know every inch of that part.

Of the land which has been demarcated by the Commission in this county, 70 per cent. should never have been taken into a native area, for the simple reason—as you see on this map—it is berg land. In the whole of that area there are not more than 150 huts, and then you must go down to the Manxibitwana Valley to find them. With the exception of that valley, where there are some lepers, it is practically uninhabited.

Last year was a very droughty season, and most of the farmers made use of that land, otherwise half of our stock would have been dead. It is quite good for spring grazing.

As regards Weenen, to say it won't hold more than it will to-day, he (Mr. Chadwick) can't prove that. It is all Crown lands, with a few exceptions. There has been a lot of kicking off and taking on there of those fellows not supplying labour, but to say there is not room for more natives—I would not like to vouch for that. I think there is.

By Mr. Chapman.] I should think it would carry double the number there are on now. It is dry, but it seems to suit their purpose—they live there.

I have not the slightest desire that any of our Natal lands should be included in native area. No one has asked for it at all, and as Chadwick says it will only cause a lot of trouble and probably a rebellion. If a native who is bred and born in that area turns sick after he is turned off, it will be attributed by the witch-doctors to his having left his old homestead; someone tampering with the bones of the dead, etc. It is the greatest mistake possible to shift these people.

This Bill was brought about through the Transvaaler and the Free Stater joining hands with the Kafir over half shares in cultivation. The Government were urged to bring in a Bill to cope with the question, and they bring in a measure including all sorts of other matters.

I have labour farms in other parts. I am just gradually getting the natives out of paying rents. I am taking on new kraals who work.

Mr. Chapman.] What happens to those who have to leave?

Senator Winter.] They have to find places wherever they can. Many people are only too glad to take natives on if they will work. The native has been allowed to offer his services in the highest market, and when he has to live on a farm and supply labour that is where the hardship comes in.

I wish to retain the natives for my own use and that of my family; I will give every son-in-law so many kraals.

Mr. Chapman.] How many do you consider would be affected by this law?

Senator Winter.] Not many if we agree about labour. If we don't, I should say fully 60 per cent.

Mr. Chapman.] How many natives would that mean, roughly?

Senator Winter.] That would mean about 85 huts on these two farms—"Vaalkrantz" and "Sterkspruit."

Mr. Chapman.] You draw a fair income from native rents?

Senator Winter.] No, I don't. They pay rent, but I don't get 3 per cent. on the value of the farm by money. I can prove that by book. At one time I did; I was making my 6 per cent. and drawing labour besides.

Mr. Chapman.] Points out that there is some doubt if natives will be allowed to work on other farms.

Senator Winter.] It would be a great disadvantage. It would affect my farming operations very considerably. No one would buy the farm; it is thorn country; who would live there? I am doing away with all this rent-paying business if a Kafir says he would sooner work regularly than pay rent. I make him pay up his arrears first. On my own land the Kafirs owe me about £600 for arrears. I use the two farms mentioned for wintering of stock and labour, but if you take my labour from me it deteriorates the value of my farm.

By the Chairman.] I think it is a very great hardship if a native works for me for six months and says he is tired and you can't allow him to go elsewhere to work. I think it very hard lines. Under that he must complete 12 months.

It would affect Natal very seriously. The position would be this: they would all strike and we should have no labour. I have natives to-day who are as good as any white man and am I to impose a hardship on those fellows who have helped to make me what I am to-day? The native will not put in twelve months' service.

I am dead against the Bill, absolutely dead against it. I think a more iniquitous Bill was never brought to light. You will remember what the Poll Tax did; this is a bigger question than the Poll Tax.

By Mr. Marwick.] It is some 8 or 9 years since I was in the Mpofana Location. I should say it is fairly well occupied, because any natives turned off private farms would naturally go there if there was land to cultivate. Most of it is fairly good arable land. I think all these locations where there is fertile land or where there is not, no matter where they are situated, are capable of accommodating more natives, but the native has a beastly custom of claiming land.

By Mr. Chapman.] Drakensberg Location No. 1 is fairly well populated under existing conditions. There is a lot of land there that natives would not take up; it is not fertile land. Only the hollows are cultivated. It would not be suitable for closer settlement of natives. In the valleys it is all right. It would carry a bigger population in dry seasons, but not in wet times. It gets very swampy and the land gets cold and you can't get crops.

The same remarks apply to Location No. 2.

As regards Carr's farm and "Lammermoor"—there is good arable land there. Carr has been there over 40 years. A portion of "Lammermoor" belongs to a native. This farm is not up to much. It is strange that these farms should be recommended as a native area.

COPY.

The South Downs,
Lowlands, Natal,
5th December, 1917.

To the Secretary of Natives Land Commission,
Maritzburg.

Dear Sir,—I have just become aware of a very important fact, which I should like to add to my former evidence. On very good authority I have heard that the Govern-

ment obtain very few natives to work on the roads and public works from the native locations. They draw nearly all their labour from private farms. The natives in the locations are too independent to work, but the native on private lands has his rent to pay, therefore wants money and is willing to work. If this proposed Natives Land Bill, of enlarging the locations in Natal, becomes law, labour will be more scarce than it is at present; farms and industries will be standing still from want of labour.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. BLAKER.

Report of Evidence taken in Magistrate's Court-House, Ladysmith, Natal, on October 29th, 1917.

Mr. H. B. CAWOOD.] With regard to the farm "Matiwana's Kop," I am not sure that it has been put into the native area. That is a farm I was anxious to see retained in the native area. It has been occupied by these people for about 13 years, and it was bought by them for their chief, who is an hereditary chief, to make a home for him. It has been surveyed into about 140 or 150 lots, with a township and commonage attached to it. I know there has been a movement on the part of the white farmers to try and get the farm for closer settlement, and I thought it my duty to come to the Committee and lay the facts before them. There are about 200 township lots and a large commonage—nearly half the farm. The natives there wish to make it their permanent home, also for their chief, Mbekwa. We have raised a bond to pay off the small balance that was owing. They paid about £12,000 for the place, and there is now only about £1,000 owing. It means that if each man pays about £12 or so he gets his ploughing fields, his lot, and a share in the commonage, and they will be comfortably settled there for a lifetime.

That refers to Matiwana's Kop only; it is a 6,000 acre farm. If this is put into a European area those people, naturally wishing to sell to each other, would not be able to do so. I particularly hope that your Commission can recommend that it be put into a native area.

There has been tick fever there, but it is the duty of the Government to see they get rid of tick fever. There is a dipping tank there now.

That is one of the particular farms I certainly think should be included in a native area.

Native chiefs themselves have appealed to me to try and bring it to the Government that if they are brought together then they will be brought back to heathenism, whereas if they have European neighbours they will not be subject to that.

As regards the ownership of surrounding farms—"Doorn Poort" is owned by Macdonald, "Doorn Kraal" by natives, "Matiwana's Kloof" is owned by Kumalo, "Elands Spruit" is owned by Collins, and the remainder of "Roodepoort" by Innes.

Then with regard to Wessel's Nek, there is a very large native population who own land bought and paid for, and it struck me as peculiar that it is not put in the native area. Most of it is bought and paid for years ago by natives. "Steen Coal Spruit" and a large proportion of the adjoining land is bought by natives. I represent some of them, who own 1,000 acres at least. These men are cutting up and selling portions of their land to other natives and there will be trouble in getting transfer.

Mr. D. SPARKS.] They owned that part 40 years ago. I have been here 37 years, and they had it then.

Mr. Cawood.] Under those circumstances it seems very hard that they should not be in a native area.

By Mr. Chapman.] They complain very bitterly that they cannot sell to their own people after living there all these years.

Mr. Sparks.] There was one farm—"Steen Coal Spruit"—formerly; it has been cut up amongst the first purchasers and divided amongst the children. I think it is only this one farm affected. The lots are all along the Inkunzi.

Mr. Cawood.] The "Driefontein" people are anxious to know if they could purchase a part of "Roodekop" to add on to "Roodepoort" I consider them (the "Driefontein" people) are one of the best settlements in the country from a native settlement point of view. They have bought 200 acres from Mr. Bester near the station and want to form a township there for themselves. I suppose there is no objection to their doing so.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] "Matiwana's Kloof" belongs to the Carbutt's estate; "Matiwana's Kop" and "Jonono" belong to natives.

I should like you to look at this plan of the closer settlement scheme. In some of these settlement schemes the expenses are so heavy that the man could never sell his lot for what it cost him.

By Mr. Marwick.] There are very few natives here who do not own their own lands. These men have very strong rules and regulations against polygamy, beer drinking and

immorality, and they do not allow people to purchase land unless they are passed by the Committee of Management. They try to keep their community respectable as far as possible. I know of one case where a chief's father was turned off his land for living with another woman. Those conditions are inserted in every transfer. Every person who buys must be passed by the committee. The trustees are very strict. They very soon have offenders up before them and turn them out of the community. You can see their idea of trying to better themselves.

The natives at Acton Homes are also in the same position. They bought land there many years ago and are very much afraid they will have to sell their land. No European would buy small lots from these natives. Natives would not be able to sell except to natives. As far as these people are concerned, an individual would never get a European to buy unless Government took it over and bought the whole thing, and that would entail an enormous expenditure. No European wanting to buy would buy several small lots from these people at what they cost them.

By Mr. Chapman.] "Kromdraai" reverted back to natives after half the purchase price had been paid. On "Modder Spruit" they paid about £1,000 and could not keep up their instalments, so it reverted.

Mr. Sparks.] We represent the Agricultural Society of Klip River Divison. The principal thing passed by the meeting held was that we approved of the Natives' Land Bill with certain modifications, and one was that where property is owned by both Europeans and natives, the Government give the option of selling to the Government at a valuation, or the Government take it over at a valuation, so as to save this locking up of land where the European cannot sell but to natives and he cannot raise money, which is a very awkward position. A European farm may have to be sold, and if it is thrown on the market and has to be sold to natives the owner is ruined. If these farms could be taken over at the start it would put a different aspect on the whole question.

By Mr. Mackenzie.] The question of neutral areas did not come before us. No one raised it. As far as that is concerned I will call the committee together again and we can write.

If the whole of Natal were made a neutral area, I do not think my society would agree to that, but if only a portion—that would be different. The idea was that some farms in the native area to-day—"Potsdam" and others—should be left out. "Paarde Voet Pad," "Witte Klein Fontein," "Fitty Park" and "Sunday's River Poort"—those farms were specially mentioned by the meeting as those which they wished to be excluded from the native area. Mr. Quested is re-stocking his farm ("Fitty Park") at the present time, and a man is going there. The land there is exceptionally good and with dipping the farms are now being made use of.

"Matiwana's Kop" is one of the finest propositions in the district. It has been a source of great trouble to the district, having had tick fever there ever since the first outbreak. They have never been able to get the farm clean, but I am hoping they will get the disease under. If Government had the power they might appropriate or exchange or give them land in a native area.

Mr. Marwick.] Supposing they are left as suggested in neutral areas, don't you think they will gradually lose their land?

Mr. Sparks.] No, I think it will act the other way. Natives will go to sales and buy in such a way that no European will be able to buy it. Two hundred may find the money, but only one need buy the farm. I think the natives will make an endeavour to increase their holdings and any land coming into the market adjoining their holdings will be sought for. I am of opinion that natives will never give up their land which they have paid for; not in our lifetime. The land upon which only a portion has been paid is reverting always. The "Driefontein" proposition has now been going for nearly fifty years. "Waters Meet" is merely a native location; there is no improvement there. It has gone back 100 per cent. since they bought it. They are filling it full of natives at the present time. "Matiwana's Kop" is getting similar.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think the whole of those native farms are not what they were. Years ago we used to purchase large quantities of mealies from them, but now they are becoming locations of rent-paying natives. Formerly, 20 or 30 years ago, each man had his land and he ploughed it; they then produced in this district more mealies than the whole of the Europeans did. At the present time they just produce what they use; they may sell a small surplus to the Indian storekeepers. In the old days they came in with streams of wagons of mealies.

The natives are not growing grain for the market as they did years ago. Since East Coast fever, the tendency to cultivate has diminished. The natives buy more than they did. If they had the cattle they would grow more, I am certain. The soil is all right.

By the Chairman.] The native women are not doing what they used to. I plough for the natives on my farm as much as they can clean, but not more. The one thing against production to my mind is that they go off to Johannesburg and get high wages and just come home once a year or so.

By Mr. Marwick.] Generally, our society is in favour of the Bill. It would be far better if this land could be appropriated by the Government and the occupants put into native locations straight away, and *vice versâ*. That is the point we feel strongly about.

Mr. Marwick.] In regard to the definition of a servant as a man who must be continuously employed, do you not apprehend any difficulty in connection with that in this district?

Mr. Sparks.] We prefer that they did leave and have outside labour than to go on as at present. We understand we should have to take out licences for our outside labour.

We have not read the 1917 Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, yet. I can see this Bill is going to affect Natal more than any other Province.

Mr. T. G. B. STEVENS.] I think neutral areas would affect men like me considerably. I consider the property would be depreciated in value if it was made neutral. My all is in this farm "Potsdam," and at the present moment I am heavily handicapped on account of being in this proposed area. I wanted to buy a farm near by, and I find it is not considered a security by the banks—I cannot raise money on the property. My financial position is not so good as it was years ago on account of my farm being in a native area. I am a young man and want to progress, but I am really handicapped by this Bill, and I think it would continue if I was in a neutral area.

Personally, I would not like to live in a native area, and I would prefer to exchange my farm for one in a white area, if possible. I am a married man. As regards the farms, I think they are the pick of the Klip River from a cattle point of view; the advent of dipping has altered that country entirely. There are more natives and more stock on my farm than when I bought it.

For a short time I was farming "Tenten's Kraal," but I had a disagreement with the owner, W. E. Goldby, on account of there being rent-paying natives. We split on the question of rent-paying natives. The natives on that farm dip on mine, and both farms are now clean of East Coast Fever. Some of the lands that are not occupied by whites are infected. "Witte Klein Fontein" is infected. I can get out with donkey transport, but not oxen. I can sell cattle for slaughter and also to adjoining clean lands. The Crown lands around there have no tanks and they are our trouble. The other farms are under the Veterinary Department, with good and capable men who are doing all they can.

There are no fresh European neighbours in the native area.

I consider that farm the best one I have been on for cattle in the country. I am from 27 to 30 miles from Ladysmith, but I send cream away and get superfine quality on every occasion.

I have been on five farms in the last 15 years and this is the best I have been on for cattle.

Report of Native Evidence.

Revd. ALFRED KUMALO.] I am one of the deputation from Bergville. We will not be satisfied if we are placed either in a native area or in a non-native area. We prefer to be allowed to remain in the position in which we bought the land. We would regard it as a hardship to have to remove from our present farms. We look to the Government to restore to us the facilities for the purchase of land, because four years have elapsed since the right of purchase by natives was prohibited. We are living peacefully and comfortably on the land which we have bought. We are living on farms which we have bought by our own exertions, and we have sufficient grazing. We are following pastoral pursuits, having cattle and dipping tanks. Those are the representations which we wish to make.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, all our farms are in the European area. We have paid all the instalments on those farms. They have been sub-divided.

Is it the law that in the event of one owner of an allotment of a farm having died that small allotment in amongst the natives would have to be bought by Europeans?

The Committee.] That is the law as it stands at present, but it is not likely a block would be bought by an European.

Mr. Chapman.] How many owners of land are there?

A. Kumalo.] I could not give the number; speaking from memory there would be about 100. Yes, they do take on rent-paying tenants, but not many. Our plea is for this district to remain a neutral area. The safeguard against the natives losing their land would exist in the control that is exercised over individual owners by the trustees, who have the first option of purchase in case of any individual owner getting into difficulties.

EPHRAIM BUTELEZI.] I wish to supplement the evidence of the previous witness by pointing out the hardship under which we will suffer if the proposed Bill comes into operation. We understand that the farms owned by us fall within a European area and that should we wish to sell we can only sell to Europeans, except with the consent of

the Governor-General. If, on the other hand, we wish to surrender these farms and buy in native area we see no suitable farms which would satisfy us in the recommended area. The effect, therefore, of the Bill in our opinion would simply be to dispossess us of our land and to give us nothing in return. We should feel a keen sense of grievance if, after being allowed to select our lands, we are now through the force of this law obliged to surrender them and accept land which in no way satisfies us. We feel that such a law would be a danger.

I would like the recommended area in the Bergville district to be pointed out to me. (This is done.) I know the country that is indicated on the map. None of this land is to be compared in anyway with the lands we own to-day. It is utterly worthless for occupation, either by natives or Europeans; it is only suitable for grazing. Even the Europeans would never occupy it. It is clear to me that in the event of my death and my land being sold to Europeans, my heirs would never possess land. If the Government were indeed proceeding by consultation and not simply by force it would listen to our appeal that the country should remain as it is. I understand I could leave the land by will to any person, but it will limit the usefulness of this land to me if it cannot be bought by other natives.

For four years we have been hoping Government would restore to us our right to buy land, but when we are pointed out the area in which this right is to be restored to us that limited extent we are wholly disappointed, and we fail to see what justice there is in such an arrangement.

Revd. Kumalo.] The proposed Bill will operate very harshly to those of us of the Bergville district. We in particular have occasion to mourn a large number of relations who went down in the S.S. "Mendi," and others of our tribes are serving in France to-day. Yet we hear the law disturbing the occupation of land is being introduced at the same time when King George is asking us to help him in the war in France. We feel this very keenly, because the Bill spells the confiscation of our rights to land which we were allowed to buy and other land which we wished to buy. We have money in our hands for the purchase of land, but we are restricted from buying it. We are keenly disappointed because of the effect of this Bill.

Chief MBHEKWE.] I would like to know how my farm stands in relation to the recommended native area. (He is shown the map and told that "Matiwana's Kop" is in the European area.)

This proposed Bill will operate upon us with great hardship, just as I represented to the previous Commission presided over by Sir William Beaumont. When I heard of the proposed separation of land between Europeans and natives I imagined that additional areas would be pointed out which could be bought by natives, but when I find that the recommended native areas consist of farms that already belong to natives it seems to me a great hardship, even a greater hardship than the mere territorial separation, which in itself is not agreeable to us.

When we ask Europeans or natives what is meant by farms suitable for natives and farms suitable for Europeans we are told that the farms suitable for natives are those consisting of hills which are unable to support anybody. We see that the design is to deprive us of these lands which we have bought with our own exertions, which were not given to us, and to place us upon land upon which we cannot possibly subsist. Yet some years ago it was constantly dinned into our ears that we were a lazy people who did not appreciate the advantages of buying land nor of cultivating it, but now that we have awakened to those advantages we are to be restricted. It is clear that this land which has recently come into our possession and which we have not yet been able to make use of is to be taken away from us. We were wholly satisfied under the conditions which made it possible for us to learn better methods of cultivation; to learn the use of up-to-date implements, and to be neighbourly with our European neighbours, but we have come to the conclusion that there is some great offence that we have committed. It is the way of the Government to do as it thinks fit: it asks us for our views, and our views are as they have been stated by previous speakers—that we wish to be allowed to live as we are living.

If this law actually comes into force it will force the natives into a state of destitution through having no land to subsist upon. It will drive them to thieving and other sorts of degradation. They will be obliged to prey upon the Europeans because they will have nothing of their own. The law is a very bad one. The only feature of the law which we would be thankful for would be the right of a native to will his property to any of his relations or to any person whatsoever. That would indeed be a gratifying feature, so long as his will is to be recognised by the Government.

As I have understood the proceedings to-day we have been assured that in respect of these Bergville farms which are included in the European area the present owners may will their property to whomsoever they wish and that will will be respected.

Mr. Chapman points out that this is as far as we understand the law to-day, and that, of course, the will must be registered with the Magistrate.

Chief Mbhekwe.] My advice to the men of Bergville is to leave a will which will last for ever and ever, handing down their property from one generation to the other.

By Mr. Chapman.] If it were possible to physically uproot my farm and put it into a native area I would like to do that. My idea of this territorial separation means to be cast into outer darkness, but if it is to be I would elect to have my farm removed into a native area. We recognise that this law means degeneration and devastation, because no man will go with a hungry stomach when he sees food, and if we are obliged to live in areas which are unable to support us we will take to cattle stealing, grain stealing and every crime that is easy to us, and as people we cease to exist.

Mr. Chapman.] Are none of the spokesmen who have spoken this morning members of the National Native Congress, and have they given their views before the Congress?

Revd. Kumalo.] In our part of the country very few of us belong to the Congress. We are not opposed to the Congress in any way but we are insufficient in numbers to belong to it.

Chief Mbhekwe.] We do occasionally send delegates to Congress, but we have not sent in regard to this partiular matter recently. We are in close touch with what has been done recently by the Congress.

Revd. Kumalo.] We do not quite understand what attitude Congress has taken up, so we do not know whether to approve or not.

Chief BHEKU.] I am not an owner of land, although I am becoming one in the future. I am entirely in sympathy with what has been said by the previous speakers who are owners of land with regard to their rights. I trust the Government will give consideration to their views. We recognise that the Government is not to be turned back in any design which it may have.

Speaking as one who is in charge of natives, I would say that our cry is that the Government should, in the first instance, give us locations. The question of buying land is one which will only be realised by the natives later. Many of those who have bought land were originally resident in locations and left the locations to acquire land of their own. Many of our people who were unable to help themselves are on the farms. I make this request not only on my behalf but in the name of other Chiefs who are similarly situated. There are no locations in the Klip River Division, and I ask that they may be set apart here.

COPY.

Newlands, Matiwana,
5th November, 1917.

The Secretary, Commission, Natives' Land Bill,
Pietermaritzburg.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Special Committee appointed by the Klip River Agricultural Society, who appeared before your Commission on the 29th October, the following resolution was passed:—

"In view of the information now before us on the nature of the proposed Natives' Land Bill, which information was not in our possession at the time we passed a resolution to the effect that we were in favour of this Bill, we now wish to entirely withdraw the resolution laid before the Natives Land Commission at Ladysmith on Monday, the 29th of October, 1917, as we now propose to call a general meeting of the members of the K.R.A.S. to discuss this question."

The result of this meeting will be sent you.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) D. SPARKS,
Chairman.

COPY.

P.O. Box 90, Ladysmith, Natal,
10th November, 1917.

The Chairman, Native Lands Commission,
Pietermaritzburg.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Klip River Agricultural Society held on Saturday, November 10th, 1917, my Committee laid before the meeting all information in regard to the Natives' Land Act, and the following resolution was passed:—

"That this society does not support the Natives' Land Act and that a copy of this resolution be sent through the Committee to the Native Lands Commission."

Please place the above resolution before the Commission. Under separate cover I am sending you the copy of the Bill, which was lent to us.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) D. SPARKS,
Chairman.

Report of Evidence taken at Newcastle, Natal, on 31st October, 1917.

Senator F. A. R. JOHNSTONE, J.P.] I want to say that the Bill before Parliament is, as far as Natal is concerned, a most iniquitous Bill. It will cause more friction between the Europeans and the natives than any measure that could be passed. I am speaking of Natal; I am not speaking generally, because I do not know the requirements of natives in the other parts of the Union, but I do claim to know as much about the natives in Natal as any man living. I have been in the Civil Service—from 1854. I served for years as Zulu interpreter to the Magistrates at Richmond, so I know the language. I have been farming for about 40 years, and always had my own natives on my own land, and they, as far as I know, are quite satisfied with the treatment they received from me.

I know from information I have got from natives that they are very much against this Bill. They object to be segregated. They say "Let us live as we have been living up to now. The white man is our protection; he is a protection against our own people." Whenever these natives go and live in locations and a great number of them congregate together there are always rows and disputes. These disputes on private lands are never mixed up so much with fighting and quarrelling as when the natives are living close together.

Apart from that, the natives are perfectly satisfied with the present laws of Natal. I may say that I was a Native Commissioner for years in Natal, and one of the members of the late Council for Native Affairs, along with the late Arthur Shepstone and others, and those gentlemen and I am in a better position to get information from the natives than most other people, because I am known to them and I pride myself on my being respected by them. They do not want this Bill; they do not want to be compelled to reside where the Government wish them to; they want to reside wherever they like and where it suits them best. They want to be enabled to buy land as they have been doing up to now, and I see no objection why they should not have as much right to buy land as a coolie has.

By passing this Bill you are putting a restriction upon the natives one of the pin-pricks which is going to raise disturbance amongst the natives of Natal. The natives of Natal are not the same class as those living in other parts of the Union. The natives of Natal have been very law-abiding and obedient, with the exception of one little rebellion, and they are now. They are absolutely satisfied and content with the laws of Natal, and it is an absolute impossibility, it will never work, to bring the natives of Natal under the same laws as the natives of the Cape Colony, or Transvaal, or Free State. The fact of the matter is that the introduction of this Bill was chiefly brought about by the people of the Free State, who could not get labour. We had more labour than we required. It was petty jealousy: they thought if pressure was brought on the Natal native it would bring more labour where it was wanted. If we segregate our natives of Natal it will cause a disturbance. They will never submit to it quietly. I myself do not see why natives should not continue to get land if they have money to pay for it.

On the part of the farmers, I think it is a most iniquitous thing to take land from farmers who bought it from the Government absolutely freehold. There were no conditions: I know this, because I was a member of the Natal Parliament. The Government did not even take the mineral rights—even they were sold to the farmers—and now because there is a slight agitation in the Free State or the Transvaal it is proposed to rob these people of their farms; it would be a most iniquitous thing. You would not only have the natives against you, but you would have the Europeans. Fancy a man who had paid for his farm, made improvements and made himself comfortable so that his children could reap the benefit of his labours—it would be a most mischievous thing to do, and I think the only thing for Government to do is to drop this Bill or make it applicable to those Colonies who do want it.

I have spoken to a lot of natives on my farm, who say: "Why cannot we be in the same position as a coolie, who can buy land? Why are you taking the right away from us?" I hope the Government will never try to push this Bill through Parliament, because it will be most iniquitous for Natal. I hope whatever the Commission does you will make strict enquiry into the different phases of this Bill. I see many farmers here who are very much concerned about it, and I tell you they are not satisfied, and I agree with them, because to take a man's property away against his will is a most iniquitous thing. You will have disturbance amongst the farmers. I for one would resent it most terribly if any measure was passed for me to be deprived of my property.

If the Government want to segregate people and be proper negropholists (as a good many of them are, especially those gentlemen who drafted this Bill), let them put themselves in the place of those people who are going to be robbed of their land and then hear what they will say. There are middle-aged men who have bought land 25 and 30 years ago under Government regulations and conditions. They have paid for that land;

they have erected buildings; they have made water-courses and fenced the farm, and then for it to be taken away by the Government at an arbitrary price; it would be most iniquitous, and I do not think it should be forced on the country. Make laws for the country which require them, but do not do it here. The best thing the Government can do is to leave Natal absolutely out of this Bill if they are going to pass it.

The lands we call Buffalo Flats were not given out by the Government when the other lands of this Division were given out. It was thought that the land was no good, in the old days. I was the person who got those lands put up by Government; it was one of the conditions upon which I was returned to the Natal Government, viz., that those lands should be thrown open for sale. We got those lands thrown open by the then Government in 1893 or 1894. These people applied for the land and it was sold to them by public auction for the price they gave, to be paid for in 20 years, and they had to occupy it. Those men paid the rent; most of them have occupied it ever since, and it turns out now to be about the best part of Newcastle Division for agriculture. People are always agitating about closer settlement; now, I tell you that land on the Buffalo Flats is as closely occupied as it very well can be and it is occupied by progressive farmers—men who are doing their best to push the country ahead. It would be a most mischievous thing to deprive those men of their land. There were no restrictions and nothing reserved at the time of their sale except as regards public roads and to take water from the farms for Government purposes. Further than that the people had 20 years to pay off their rent, and I believe they have all paid. They found out it was excellent land for agriculture and they have improved the land. I am personally acquainted with most of those farmers, in fact I am personally acquainted with all the farmers residing in that neighbourhood. It would be absolutely wrong to take that land from those farmers at a Government arbitration price; the people would never be paid for their improvements. Are you going to shift Europeans from land when there is an outcry all over South Africa for closer settlement? The natives have locations and can buy land; let them continue to do so. The Government can get lots of land for natives if they want to, but not that particular spot.

Mr. Chapman.] What land would you suggest?

Mr. Johnstone.] Land that is not so valuable to European farmers as that. Why cannot the natives buy land where they like? The Natal native is quite satisfied with the opportunity he has at present of getting land if he can pay for it. The Coolie can buy where he likes, why not the native? In Ladysmith District there is a huge area owned by natives—I believe about 45,000 acres—why not let them do so? If a native can pay as much money for land as a European why not let him buy if? That is my argument. Leave things as they are. The Natal native wants no alteration. He can always pay for the land he wants.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, they had the same conditions as Europeans when they bought land there. The conditions were that the land should be put up in public auction in pieces not larger than 2,000 acres and the purchaser would have the right to pay in instalments over 20 years. Not even the coal was reserved. The people bought the land absolutely freehold.

I could not say when Government first allowed natives to buy land. I think it was under the Shepstone regime.

Mr. Marwick.] How would the farmers regard the proposal that certain areas in the Province should be treated as neutral areas, that is—natives and Europeans be allowed to continue to buy as they have been?

Mr. Johnstone.] The farmers are quite satisfied, as far as I know, to leave things absolutely as they are. I cannot say that the farmers are satisfied with the administration of natives. I think they want to be left as they are. They don't want to lose their farms, because there is no doubt they are valuable farms.

Mr. Marwick.] If the proposed Bill is carried out as it stands, will it result in many natives leaving their farms?

Mr. Johnstone.] Oh, yes, it will.

Mr. Marwick.] How many farmers have natives who work all the year round without a break?

Mr. Johnstone.] I do not think there is one. There are none that I know of. It is a pin-prick which will cause a nasty feeling, both with the native and the European. I have employed natives on my farms for the last 45 years and I have never made a contract with them before a magistrate. I have never been to a magistrate's court to complain about my natives, and they have never been to a magistrate's court to complain about me. They pay no rent. They live rent free and are absolutely satisfied. I am their chief and their magistrate and everything—I understand them, as I said before, and I do not think they are people who will like these new-fangled ideas if this Bill becomes law in this country. I explained the Bill to the natives on my farm and they said: "Awu! Nkosi, why do you want to kill us? Why do you wish to drive us all off your farm? We want the same right to buy land as coolies have when we have the money. We want the protection of the white people, so that we may not be treated as in the days of Tshaka and Dingaan. We want the white people always mixed up with us."

Mr. Marwick.] What steps would you take to prevent natives from other Provinces coming in and buying land?

Mr. Johnstone.] I do not know whether I would try to prevent natives from other Provinces coming here. I have a perfect right to go into the Free State or the Transvaal and buy land and the people of those Provinces can come here. Why not give the owner the benefit of the chance or of the opportunity? I do not object to it at all. My idea is to treat the native the same as you do a European. It is not just to prevent a native from buying land in Natal. How can you discriminate? You cannot say which is a Natal native and which is a Transvaal native; they are all mixed up. With the exception of a few negropholists and mission natives who write articles in the paper, there is no idea of the native wanting different treatment to the European.

By Mr. Chapman.] The natives have not the means and I do not think they will obtain the means to acquire a large proportion of the land in Natal. They may in the Cape Colony. The native is not the same as a European, who can sit down and accumulate money to buy land; he will spend it before the time comes. We all know that.

MR. OTTO SCHWIKKARD.] I represent the Ingogo Farmers' Association. As far as my Association is concerned they have given me discretion to give all the evidence I think proper. They know my views. I have lived in this district permanently practically from 1881, but I know the district since 1868.

With regard to the land which the Government wishes to declare a native area in this district, I take it it is only a matter of waiting a few years when that land will have to be again taken away from the natives, because it is certainly becoming more valuable every day. That land was sold to Europeans who started, so to say, with nothing. They built it up. They have not progressed to the extent that some farms have because they have had to make the money out of the ground. Since the war, a Natal gentleman approached me to show him round. I was living at Boscobello then, and I think most of you gentlemen know him. It was Mr. A. K. Murray, and he was representing a syndicate to start irrigation works. (Mr. Chapman states that this evidence was recorded by the last Committee and need not be repeated.)

I do not think I can say very much more with regard to that. I do not think there is anything new, except that Mr. Marwick was asking about this neutral area. Now what I would like to be defined is what is the meaning of a neutral area. (Mr. Marwick explains.)

Well, better that than the present. I would sooner agree to the neutral area, but it is only under protest. Why not rather have these lands as in the Free State—declare each native farm a native area, just as they have done in the Free State? Why make fish of one and fowl of another? The farms there at Thabanchu are dotted about with white men in between. I am told by men who have been there lately that the European farms are adjacent to the native farms and amongst them, and none of the European farms are included in a native area. Each native farm is a native area.

With regard to new areas, there are areas in the Vryheid District that are not occupied by white people and won't be for a number of years. Why not rather increase the area there? Take from the Pongolo right past Ngomi, adjoining Zululand—there are large areas which are only used for winter grazing and they cannot send cattle there now on account of East Coast Fever restrictions. There are farms in the market every day now in these areas; why not make the areas there if it is so necessary.

I maintain that area (the Ngotshe Division) is quite sufficient. They don't want any more. It is all very well from the native's point of view for him to plough a bit here this year and a bit there next year. He will have to fall in line with the Europeans and fertilize.

With regard to this land here, it is sandy soil, and we all know that after the second year you want fertilizer and have to work it properly. That is certainly not land suitable for natives. It is not rich enough for the native, who will not work it and fertilize it properly.

In this case the Government depreciates your land first because you can only offer it to the native. No white man would buy it. You handicap the seller because there is only a native to buy. I can only say, by common sense, that where there is no competition there can only be one result—to depreciate the property. If there is only one buyer it stands to reason that that land will depreciate.

By Mr. Chapman.] In the first place, I do not think all the natives would leave, because the native living on a white man's farm is much better off every time. He has some sort of protection and the white man who employs him as a rule looks after him; he fathers that native generally. There are exceptions. If he has no oxen to plough with his baas will plough for him; if he is in difficulties he can run to his baas and he will be helped and have to work it out. The man who will have to leave will be the man who has been to Johannesburg, earning wages, and is demoralised.

As regards working 12 months on end, I think in many cases a great many would remain sooner than go off to locations or places they were not used to, but I think it is a mistake to enforce that twelve months condition.

I think they would mostly revert to labour tenants and most people would have them as labour tenants.

Mr. Marwick.] What are your objections to certain areas in the Province being recognised as neutral areas?

Mr. Schwikkard.] I object entirely to it, but if there is no other help for it I am choosing the lesser evil of the two. I would sooner have that than the present delimitation. I would sooner have this area a neutral area than a native area.

(Mr. Marwick reads Sir William Beaumont's recommendations as to neutral areas.)

Mr. Schwikkard.] That is practically leaving it as it is. Well, I would sooner have that than declaring these areas as native areas and driving the white man out. I think the farmers would sooner accept that than be put in a native area. I am in hopes that within five years the troubles that are troubling the white man will have been settled, and then if we are unanimous—and I think most of us are unanimous on this point, that self-preservation is the first law of nature and that charity begins at home—then there will be no difficulty.

MR. A. GARSTANG.] I would like to point out that very probably evidence will be contrary to that you have just heard and particularly on the one point as touching neutrality. I am speaking first of all on behalf of the people who are affected in the Buffalo Flats area. I have been asked to be one of their representatives in this matter. I am not personally interested as regards land, but I have seven or eight brothers-in-law down there, and I have been asked to represent some 45 Europeans who will be affected by this Bill if it goes through. One point is that we do not care to think even of neutrality as touching that area No. 4. We feel that the idea of neutrality has no finality whatever. We feel this, Sir, that if this were a neutral area it would be the dumping ground, sooner or later, of the disaffected natives of the whole district. In a few years the re-consideration of this question would come up, and there being such a large number of natives settled on that ground, either with natives who owned farms or on the grounds of indiscriminate farmers, the Government would say: "This must be a native area," and those who were anxious to retain their farms would have to relinquish them and go. That was the feeling of those who discussed the matter.

We seek the entire exclusion of Area No. 4 in Newcastle Division, and our reasons for so doing are based upon the effect on the vested interests of the owners of these lands. I would like to remove, first of all, any misunderstanding or mistake which might occur in speaking of this and to make very clear that what we seek for ourselves as touching our vested interests we are prepared to give to our native neighbours in that district. We are not seeking to have Area No. 4 proclaimed a European area. We recognise that this Bill has gone a certain distance and it can hardly retrieve itself. The principle has been adopted of segregation of lands to a greater or lesser degree and we are prepared to recognise that, but we set forth the feeling that our vested interests are being very definitely interfered with and we don't want it. We are prepared also to give to our native neighbours the same consideration that we seek for ourselves. We hold title-deeds of these lands and those title-deeds we have looked upon as entirely permanent, but if this Bill comes into force and becomes law it means that the Europeans who are occupying these lands to-day will have to give them up. They have taken up those title-deeds; they have paid the purchase price and they have put into these holdings a certain amount of energy, capital and thought, and they have been hoping to live on those lands and to enjoy with their children the advantages and benefits accruing from that investment of money, brains and strength. But it appears that if this Bill goes through it would be absolutely impossible for my friends to remain on those lands under the conditions as set forth in the Bill. They could not tarry there; it would be impossible, for they would labour under so many disabilities that you are able to recognise in a moment that a European could not live in a native area under the conditions of administration that are set forth in that Bill and live contentedly and peacefully, and so we plead on the question of our vested interests for consideration in this matter.

Another point is the capabilities of this land. I understand that you gentlemen were round the district yesterday, and it would be quite patent to any observer that this land does lend itself most extensively to irrigation schemes. An irrigation scheme carried out on those lands would be invaluable, for those lands are valuable ordinarily, and they become of extraordinary value if you can bring water on them in the winter season for the crops. I believe some time ago (I have been unable to get hold of details) there was some representation on the part of the Natal Government with regard to an irrigation scheme for the Buffalo River Flats, and questions were actually put by Government representatives to the owners of land there asking them how much they would be prepared to invest in the way of payment for water if it were brought to their land. At that time the rebellion came about; other troubles have occurred and the whole thing has fallen through. In addition to that, private people have been down there investigating. Some Johannesburg people were down about the same time and, I understand, took rough levels. Those rough levels indicated that they could without any difficulty bring water to the highest point of those flats at "Blaauwbosch Laagte." Well, if you can bring water to that point there are thousands and thousands of acres that could be put under water with

an irrigation scheme. I am sorry that it is impossible for me to give actual figures and details. I have been unable to obtain them, but it is patent to everybody that it is land which is adapted for a large irrigation scheme. What would be the value of an irrigation scheme if it was in a native area? The natives do not make use of God's rain that comes to them to-day; they would not make use of the artificially introduced water if it came to them to-morrow.

The majority of the farms included in that area, or in the Newcastle section of it, are owned and occupied by Europeans to-day. I want to point out that it has been thrown at us several times, and I have noticed it in the paper that we are accused in this part of the Colony of being a kind of accommodation for the Free State farmer, who comes down in the winter with his sheep to get the benefits of those fine grazing lands of the Buffalo Flats. But that does not apply in this instance, Sir, for every one of these farms, with the exception of one, are occupied by Europeans, most of them the owners. They are occupied from year end to year end with the exception of one; " Klipbank " is the farm, owned by Greve, and he comes down there with his sheep in the winter and he also ploughs his mealie crops there—that is the only exception as regards the Newcastle section of Area No. 4.

Now the owners of these lands positively refuse to listen to this idea of their leaving their farms. That was set forth very definitely and determinedly in a document which you no doubt have, which was signed by 45 owners and occupiers of land in Area No. 4. If you will make a perusal of that document you will find it is not merely a matter of putting a few sentences on paper for the sake of getting a point, but it is the heart-felt opinion of every man who has put his name down on that document.

What are you going to do with these 45 men you are going to remove? You have not more than 1,000 acres of Crown Land in the Newcastle District: we have one piece of land known as the Salt Lake Reserve. In addition to that 1,000 acres of rather valuable land (for it is all water) there are some two or three pieces of land under the Drakensberg which Government have tried to give away and cannot get anyone to take them. They are fit for baboons and nothing else. With these exceptions there are no Crown Lands in the whole of Newcastle District. Now, what do you expect these 45 men who have put their names to that document to do if they are to be turned out of their farms and set adrift to find new places for themselves?

It is necessary for the Government to find some area for native occupation so as to enable those natives to carry out the very sound principles of the Bill before the House, which we are prepared to recognise, but why should the Government come into a district like Newcastle, which is entirely taken up with not a farm unoccupied? Why should they come into a district occupied by white men and say a certain number of these white men must relinquish their farms to provide land for these natives? If there must be a native area in the district of Newcastle—and I am now voicing the feelings of the people who are represented in No. 4 Area—we ask for the favourable consideration of the Government as touching upon this point, for which they have a very valuable precedent in the arrangement made in the case of Thabanchu, in the Orange River Colony. There was an area near to Bloemfontein; a portion of it, some 104,000 morgen, owned by natives (they had come into possession of it in various ways), and the other portion, amounting to some 285,000 morgen, belonging to Europeans. Now, you will find that proportion fits in very admirably with this very area we are discussing this morning, No. 4. I can only take my idea from the reports you have before you, but it seems as if the Government feared to interfere between the Europeans and the natives there and took the native farms and made them native areas, and *viee versâ*. They decided to proclaim every farm in the Thabanchu area a native area under the Act, and some of those pieces of land are only about 299 morgen and yet they have a number and are declared a native area. Now, gentlemen, we feel this solution has been arrived at in the case of Thabanchu and is the solution which would fit admirably here. It fits in exactly with my opening remarks that we did not see fit to interfere with the holdings of natives, because if we ask the Government to interfere with the title-deeds of these men on the same grounds someone might come and ask Government to interfere with our title-deeds. We will not have it and we do not want it for them, but we do feel that the solution of Thabanchu would fit in most admirably with Area No. 4, and if nothing else can be done (we don't want neutrality; I won't repeat that, we are frightened of it), we would seek for this solution.

It might very likely be replied that the native farms on the Buffalo Flats are too separated. You will find that in the northern part of Area No. 4, with the exception of one or two farms there is a solid block of European farms from " Hope Vale " right away down to " Gardens " without a single native farm intervening along the river going back, including " Mountain Rise " on to " Golagh," and all inside that block European farms worked and occupied by the owners month in and month out. They might say these farms are disjointed and separate and are rather too small for the requirements; we would suggest that some of the farms just outside the area, such as at Alcock's Spruit, could very well be also declared as native areas under the Act. Then it was suggested to us by Mr. Evans that possibly some exchange might be brought about. We would like to point out that that seems to our minds something of an impossibility because quite a number of the

native farms in that area at Alcock's Spruit have already been cut up and surveyed, fenced off, and have little houses on each block. More than that, the native style of farming has absolutely ruined many of the farms; they don't manure or have any exchange of crops—it is mealies or "mabele" year in and year out until the land is exhausted, and then they go to another place and exhaust that too—and to think that we could consider for one moment the suggestion of exchanging valuable lands on the river frontage for lands that have been exhausted! I will mention "Massondale," which has now only four or five of the original owners; the reason is that they have exhausted the land. The owners would be glad to go to a white man's farm and pay £5 a hut to be allowed to plough land where they could get food. So you will see this: the nature of native farms precludes any idea of exchange between Europeans and natives.

The farmers in Area No. 4 are a very definite source of revenue to all the storekeepers in Newcastle, and in addition to that they are large suppliers of cream to the Newcastle Creamery, which has been a very reasonable success. I would like to make special mention of this: that the town and district of Newcastle has been very detrimentally affected by the East Coast Fever regulations which have been in vogue for so many years. (The Chairman mentions that this evidence was recorded by the previous Committee). We cannot, I think, Sir, sever our connection in the Newcastle township from the welfare of these people for whom we are pleading this morning, and if you take those people away you may put up the shutters in some parts of Newcastle township. Is not that detrimental to the Union and this part of the Union? We have been interfered with to a large extent in these parts, and the Buffalo River area is the only part in which we have not been interfered with. On the other side, right round the Berg, a great deal of our business has been taken away and taken to other centres. If you take Area No. 4 and deplete if of European owners and occupiers, you are going to deplete Newcastle as well. We think we have some right to live and to deal, but if you act in this way you take away the power to live and to deal to a certain extent.

The occupiers of Area No. 4 are really beneficially cultivating their farms. I suppose some of you find fault with what has been done on the Flats. Well, gentlemen, we go along in a rather conservative fashion in Area No. 4. We are going along and making advances and improvements, and those lands are being beneficially occupied and used by the owners of those farms.

You will have noticed how terribly isolated it is. It stands right in the heart of an extensive population, and we fail to see, even in the interests of this Act, how in that small area, being so isolated, you are going to be able to carry out the deep principles of that Bill. It is not suited for it.

We do wish to point out and emphasise this: that the proposal of this Area No. 4 as a native area came from the Magistrate of Newcastle and the late Magistrate of Dundee without consulting anyone affected and without any personal knowledge of the area themselves. We were not consulted in one iota; we were not asked to express our opinion in any shape or form, but the thing was bounced upon us when we got the Report published in the Blue Book, and we then woke up to what had been done. I wish to emphasise very definitely this fact: that we feel there has been an absolute betrayal of the owners of this land on the part of these men who recommended this as a native area under this Act. In addition to the Magistrate there were two men taken to Dundee to give evidence before the first Commission. One of them is a butcher in Newcastle. He certainly has a knowledge of the roads and paths, but he has not one sixpence of interest in that district. The other man who went down lives outside the area, has not an ounce of land inside that area, and is not affected one iota by it. He goes down there and distinctly states that he is speaking on behalf of his Dutch fellows, and he says that this is a place for a native area. We wish to emphasise that that man has no authority whatsoever to speak on behalf of the owners of that land, English or Dutch. He has taken the trouble to refute that evidence; he has refuted the whole of his statement in the Dutch papers of the Union. Now, gentlemen, this land which has been so strongly recommended by the first Commission is not suitable. You noticed the nature of the land in your travels yesterday. The nature of the land does not lend itself to the style of agriculture practised by natives. It wants rotation of crops and careful handling, and some of our friends are realizing this and reaping the benefits to-day. That land does lend itself to progressive farming; almost every yard can be cultivated, and on these lines we plead with you to exercise any influence that you have in your power on behalf of these men, to give relief so that they may live on this land and their children may live on it in perpetuity.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am speaking on behalf of the residents of Area No. 4. I am not setting forth a view affecting the whole of Natal or any part save this neighbourhood.

There are many farms suitable for natives, but there are none available. There are farms in the district which are not occupied the whole 12 months. There is a large tract of land on the opposite side of the Buffalo River, and we wondered why the whole of that land, ranging eight or nine miles along the river and owned by two or three men who only use it for six months, was left, and that land held by many Europeans on this side should be interfered with. The only solution to our mind was that the suggestion of the Government was this: that you take the Magistrates of Newcastle, Dundee and Utrecht and get

them to put their heads together and suggest some area that would be convenient to the whole of these three districts. The Utrecht Magistrate went and had his first talk and immediately that man backed out. The Government allowed him to back out and there was no mention of the Utrecht Area and not one ounce of land was taken there. The only reason given by the Newcastle Magistrate was that there were many native farms in that area already, and he thought it would be a most convenient place because the natives were there. That is the only argument I could find that the area was set aside and why the area on the other side, owned by men who are away in the summer, was left out. The Newcastle District is fairly well occupied year in and year out. There are few farms which are used only in the winter time.

Mr. Marwick.] Where do you suggest these men who will be dispossessed shall be put?

Mr. Garstang.] It is not for us to dictate to Government as to where they should be put, or scarcely suggest, but here the Government comes in and says: "We are going to put them on your farms." Now, are there no vacant lands in Zululand? Have all the lands been occupied which are not suitable for cane growing, etc.? Are there no lands in the Free State and the Transvaal? What a small proportion of that large acreage in the Transvaal has been set aside for native occupation! There is no room for them in Newcastle. There are Crown Lands and farms in every part except this one.

The Chairman.] Do you think Natal natives would go to the Free State and the Transvaal?

Mr. Garstang.] That is a question also. They no doubt would object, the same as we would object. A large number of natives have been migrating to the Free State—on to European farms largely, I believe. The feeling and conviction which had come home to 90 per cent. of the people here is that they can find a happy hunting-ground for all in Natal. That conviction has not been removed yet.

By Mr. Marwick.] Would it not be avoided if the whole area indicated by Sir William Beaumont were regarded as a neutral area?

Mr. Garstang.] If you can assure us of permanency, but you see this does not give us any idea of permanency. It applies for the time being or a few years to come, but if we can be assured of permanency I would like to see Sir William Beaumont's suggestion adopted. Then we should revert to the standing of things before the 1913 Act: we should live with the natives, buy and sell land, and engage them as we liked, and we should be quite contented, but it seems an El Dorado out of our reach when we read that Bill.

In Area No. 4 in Newcastle District 36 farms are held and occupied by Europeans and only 20 by natives.

As regards Lennoxton, speaking on behalf of the Newcastle Council, we have not been able to arrive at the conclusion that it would be a satisfactory arrangement—not unless there were some municipal control. We are not prepared to ask that Lennoxton comes under our control; there is a very large financial burden. Some of the lands are owned by Europeans. It is a complicated question. The Roman Catholic institutions are so very definitely represented there—to the extent, I think, of some £45,000 of property. The European Boys' School is at Lennoxton. No portion of the Roman Catholic properties are used for native purposes.

MR. J. N. CROOK.] The reason I wish to give evidence is that there seems to be a misconception on the part of some members of the Select Committee as to the position in which we were—those of us who went to Dundee. I would like to state that I went to Dundee instructed by certain natives. I am trustee of the farm "Milton," and I was also instructed by the trustees of the farm "Gardens" and others. I went there for that purpose and I was instructed to represent the Town Council's views as regards Lennoxton. Then the Town Council wanted, if possible, that that Commission should allow Lennoxton to be a neutral area. Now, as representing the interests of Lennoxton, Father Ford and Mr. Robertson went. None of the three of us had anything to do whatever with a recommendation as to this native area No. 4. I knew nothing about it before. We were not in the same carriage as the magistrate and his associates. They were brought down at the expense of the Government. No intimation was given us that any area was to be proposed. I could not find where the Commission was sitting and the three of us came in late. The magistrate had already given his evidence; certain questions were asked of him subsequently by Colonel Stanford I was shown a map. I did not know that the magistrate had recommended an area and did not know until I was shown the Report of the Commission. I was never told that the Buffalo Flats had been recommended as a native area. When I was asked certain questions I said that from my knowledge as a solicitor certain farms had changed hands at £2 an acre. The whole recommendation was kept secret from us three, and it was to my great surprise when I found afterwards that this recommendation had been made. I quite realise that the gentlemen forming the Commission may have been under the impression that I knew all about it, but I knew nothing about it whatever. If I had known I would have pointed out two or three things to the Commission, and one is this: it will never be possible to get the natives who will be removed owing to the Bill coming into operation in this division into that native area unless the European farmers say they will let them. I see no provision in the Bill which will make my friend, Mr. Potgieter, let natives on his farm unless he wishes to sell, and

I ask you to take this into view: that these gentlemen have said most decidedly they won't give up these farms. You cannot force the natives on to these farms, and therefore it is idle to talk of making this an area for the natives who will have to move from the European area when the Bill comes into operation, for I say you won't be able to do it. I know these gentlemen; they won't move; they will defy you and they can defy you under the Bill and you can't put the natives in there—it is quite impossible. So this district differs entirely from any of the other districts, and I say that the magistrate, when he recommended this district, knew absolutely nothing about it. He had only been once in the area in his life—(Mr. Garstang: He had not been there then)—and the statements he made were absolutely incorrect—absolutely incorrect. It is simply that the Commission took what he said *bolus bolus* and swallowed it. The very part that he recommended, every farm that he recommended in the area has been taken in. Mr. Chapman will bear it out that when he came here with the Evans-Chapman Committee, the magistrate, instead of coming then, offered to give his evidence when the Committee was not actually sitting, and then he went away and did not give his evidence. I say that evidence was practically given *in camera* before the Commission at Dundee. I defy anyone to show me that you can put one solitary native on that area who is not there to-day. You cannot do it.

I might say also with regard to the chances of natives buying land in that area. The farm "Suspense," which is the most northerly farm in that area, was sold by Mr. Dunn in the year 1910 or 1911, and three days before you were here, Sir, on the Committee, after suing one of the natives I got paid the final settlement on that farm. Mr. Wheelwright, the Native Commissioner, had to come up here three times and there were two actions in the Magistrate's Court which cost from £100 to £200. There are no natives in this division who can afford to buy a farm. I say there are none in this this district who will be dispossessed by the Act coming into force who will be able to buy farms in that area. The thing, as far as Newcastle is concerned, is an absolutely impossible proposition, I assure you.

By Mr. Marwick.] As regards the neutral area, I take exactly the same view as Mr. Garstang does, that if it is not permanent it will be useless. You, Sir, ask any one of the farmers in this particular area, No. 4, what they have done last year as compared with other years previously. No one will do anything until they know what is going to happen. You will never get a farmer to settle down on the land if he thinks he has to fight this again in a few years.

I do not think any of us thought a sane Government would bring in a proposition which would take the farms of Europeans without expropriation. That is really one of the principles of the Bill and the farmers are naturally very uncertain since then. If the present principles of the Bill are going to be applied to an area in five years' time I cannot see how the farmer can be anything else but uncertain. It seems to me, after reading the evidence of the Select Committee, that it was Mr. Schreiner who was responsible for bringing about this present enquiry on your part. As far as I see he was responsible: "For goodness' sake see that the land is sufficient first," he urged; he would not be quiet, and kept urging it on.

By Mr. Chapman.] Good gracious! No, I would not advise clients to lend money on land if it became a native area. If it was a neutral area the position might be a little better, but if it became a native area those farms would depreciate 50 per cent. I think I would have to say to my clients, if it became a native area: "You had better hang on to see, because your position might be worse if you foreclose." In the first place, I have never known one case where the natives have paid off the whole purchase price in less than five years, and in the meantime I should not know what to do.

I admit that they have sold to natives before at a better price, but under the new conditions I am perfectly sure 50 per cent. depreciation is a fair estimate.

Mr. Marwick.] Are not the farms so situated that they could be recognised as native areas, as in the Free State?

Mr. Crook.] Yes, they are. Although not contiguous they are in a narrow compass and not very much spread. A good number are in the neighbourhood of Alcock Spruit. There are several farms in this district which, although owned by Europeans, are really occupied by natives.

Mr. H. J. NIEUWENHUIZEN.] I have your terms of reference before me, but before I refer to these I would like to express that we are very much dissatisfied as to how this area came to be recommended, as already mentioned by Mr. Garstang and others. Firstly, the Magistrate is not acquainted with that area. The second person, Mr. Adendorff, had no interests at all connected with that area, and the third person, the butcher, had no interest either. I would like to read out Mr. Adendorff's reply, wherein he says that he denies it (produces letter from Mr. Adendorff to the Dutch newspapers). By this correspondence, gentlemen, you will see that he denies that he recommended the area.

Referring to (*a*)—as to the suitability of this area, I wish to say it is much more suitable for Europeans than for natives, the reason being the soil is fertile, but after

using it for a few years it requires manure. Experience has taught us that there is water which can be used with machinery, which the natives are unable to work.

I purchased my land there and worked hard on it, hoping that I would live there as long as I lived, and that my children would enjoy occupation after me. I understand under the Act that should this area be declared a native area the native only would have the right to acquire land in that area. As far as I understand, land which the natives acquired some 20 years ago has still bonds over it. They have not been able to pay for it in that time; how will they be able to purchase my farm?

With reference to the question of neutral area, it is not desirable that it should be declared as such, because the time fixed only states for the future. That being so, I am in a state of uncertainty, and have not the energy to improve my land, and what the case is with regard to myself applies to others. I do not wish to enlarge on the matter, as we agree with what Mr. Garstang has said.

Mr. Marwick.] As declaring a native-owned farm as a native area, is that proposition more likely to affect your farm detrimentally than the suggestion that the whole extensive area should be a neutral area?

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen.] If it cannot be otherwise, then I would suggest that the practice followed at Thabanchu should be followed here. At present we have no certainty that that district extending to the Tugela will be declared a neutral area; there is uncertainty about the matter.

Mr. Crook.] I know myself that Mr. Giles had this in his head: "I have been a Magistrate in many other districts, and in every one there has been a native location except here, so there must be one here." He has given expression to that view since.

I was paid by certain natives to go and represent them, but the Commission said: "Oh, we don't want to hear about that at all." They just commenced asking me questions about various things, and I had no idea Mr. Giles had given evidence.

I greatly object to Mr. Reynolds' and Mr. Adendorff's hotel and train expenses being paid when the Magistrate knew they had no interest in it themselves at all.

Mr. Marwick.] Is it going to be better for you to live alongside what will practically be a native location if these farms become native areas, or is it better for you to live in a large neutral area in which things would be left to the future?

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen.] In case the area was declared neutral there would be such an influx of natives that it would naturally follow it would in time be declared a native area and I would be forced by circumstances to leave my farm. In my opinion, I would rather the present native-owned farms should be declared as native areas than it should be declared a neutral area.

Mr. Crook.] There is a clause in the deeds of transfer of several farms outside Area No. 4: "This land shall never be sold to anyone but a native." That clause has been put in by the natives themselves, under a trustee.

Mr. G. THOMPSON.] I think that the whole of these flats are most suitable for Europeans. I am not a sheep farmer, but if ever I turned my attention to that I do not think I would be able to keep them. On the farm adjoining me, belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Zietsman, the natives took half a mile of wire from the fence, and that would apply, I think, all over this area; there is pretty hefty thieving going on alongside. I think as the younger people grow up there will be more agriculture done there on the flats. Everyone of those farms is capable of producing 2,000 bags of mealies a year. The natives produce a few bags only and the trade goes through the Indians instead of the white people. I spend an average of £200 a year on fertilizer, which is manufactured in the country and comes on the railways. Personally, I would be very, very sorry to see this land given to natives. It would be very detrimental to me. I have been there eleven years, on my farms. I have about 400 acres under cultivation this year. I have always used fertilizer. I use 180 lbs. to the acre, of bone dust. Last year I got 9 bags to the acre. I think I ought to say it is a paying proposition. I came here 11 years ago with nothing and have bought two farms.

When I came here my friends told me I had picked the worst farm on the flats, so the other farms should really turn out more than I do.

It is a little bit dry at times from a dairying point of view, but they are getting over that difficulty. I have one of the driest farms. I do know that farmers on the flats have a lovely dairying proposition.

The Chairman.] What would you propose to do with these natives?

Mr. Thompson.] Do they want more land than they have got?

The Chairman.] Do white people want any more land than they have got?

Mr. Thompson.] Yes, if they have the capital.

The Chairman.] Well, why should not the native?

Mr. Thompson.] If he has the capital, but has he? I look upon the native as a labourer.

The Chairman.] Can you keep him always as a labourer?

Mr. Thompson.] In that case I should say—sell those individuals land, but put them back from the railways and centres a bit. They do not need railways as much as white people—the native does not grow stuff to sell like a white man and his time is not so

valuable. Natives who are far ahead of the others own their land already and need no provision. I think about April or May this year there were three Kafir farms sold in the Dundee Division (I think by Allison & Hime) and they were bought by Indians and white people; not a native bought any. Let the natives come to the white man's standard of living, then let them acquire land.

Mr. Schwikkard.] Yes, you cannot let the ruck in.

Mr. Crook.] I would quite agree with the idea of having areas where they can purchase if there was any finality about it. As far as this district is concerned, there is no possibility of a native area unless you have some guarantee that it would be possible to buy land in that area. As regards Area 4, I am prepared to say that it won't be possible to buy two farms in it.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think it would be possible for me to buy 10,000 acres to-day without paying an extravagant price for it, if it were kept absolutely quiet, but not in Area No. 4; I could not buy two farms there. I think it is quite possible to buy land in other parts, however. I think I know one block of 20,000 acres which I could buy to-morrow.

Mr. Garstang.] I think we made it very clear that we did not want to interfere with the holding of these lands by natives. We do not want to quarrel at all about natives being in Area No. 4; we want to recognise that they are there.

The Chairman.] Where is the native to buy land if there is no land to buy?

Mr. Garstang.] We are against Area No. 4. Why should you take farms from Europeans to make it possible for natives to buy land there?

MR. I. J. KEMP.] I would like to ask you gentlemen if the Government is prepared to provide the 36 farmers whose farms the Government is about to take away and give to natives with other farms as well worked as those they vacate and with equal improvements on them? I am pretty sure the Government will not be in a state to give these farmers the farms, both in this and the Dundee Division. As far as I know, none of these 36 farms are bonded, which is not the case with the native farms in this district. I hope the Committee will have seen for themselves that these farms are only suitable for Europeans to occupy and not suitable for natives.

After the war we came to these farms and we had nothing. Since then we have worked ourselves up and we paid Government out of moneys we made on these farms. We of Newcastle trust that you gentlemen representing the Committee will report in our favour that these farms are suitable to be occupied by Europeans and that matters be left as they are. Natives who have no ground on the "amakolwa" farms come to us and we take them on and give them a place to live on. Since this matter has been under consideration we are unable to do anything owing to the uncertainty of everything.

I am sorry to see that the Committee did not go further than they did. I know they have been over some farms and seen what has been done. This is already the third Committee visiting Newcastle, and I hope that this is the last Committee visiting us and that the matter will now be settled and we will be left on our farms. Newcastle is very much opposed to any farms being given to the natives.

Mr. C. J. UYS.] Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, this is an important matter which the Government is about to take. The farmers labour under a difficulty. Government sold these farms to us in 1895 by public auction. We purchased these farms knowing that the natives had the same right also to purchase the farms. The only conditions there, as you know, were that we must occupy these farms nine months out of the twelve. The other conditions which the Government reserves to itself were as regards making roads, drawing water, and the mining rights. We agreed to purchase under those conditions and we have lived there now, together with the natives, for the last 20 years. I do not see now why the Government should come and try to rectify the mistake it then made. The difficulty I see is that the native population increases far more than the European population is increasing. It may be that in another 10, 15 or 20 years' time it will be necessary to give the natives another piece of ground, and where will you put the white population?

I may add here that should General Botha be still alive at that time I hope he will be Minister for Native Affairs.

I would like to state that it is best to leave matters as they are, because there is a supposition that it may in time be turned into a native location. What will become of our sons and daughters later on when it is said of them that they are born in a native location. The Government is in a position to take the native farms and sell them to Europeans in the same way as they now wish to fix the price of our farms, which will force us later on to leave our farms the same as a Bushman would run away. It is difficult to describe rules or make laws which the Government should follow, but the Government should not, after selling farms on certain conditions, try and deprive us of those farms and sell them again under different laws. Probably, later on, the native will be given a vote and what will become of the Europeans?

I wish to ask you gentlemen to see that the position does not become worse than it has already, because I can compare this proposed native area like a seed you are planting: it

will grow and spread out its branches. You have heard our opinions on this point, and I hope you will report favourably.

Mr. J. H. POTGIETER.] I am one of the persons who occupy a farm in the proposed native area, and have been a resident of this division since 1895, so I am one of those on whom this great native question rests.

The area here is very suitable for European occupation and has a bright future. As a native area it will not be suitable. It will be detrimental to us living with the native; town, church and school will suffer.

The natives did not comply with the purchase conditions, although where the natives paid up the purchase price they received the title deeds. The native must be treated according to his ways: for instance, in the large native areas at the Tugela let the Government arrange for closer settlement. In every area let the native be deterred from picking as he chooses. He should be given a definite piece of ground for agriculture and not be allowed to plough where he likes. If they were made to live more closely more ground would be available.

Area No. 4 is surrounded by farms occupied by Europeans. It cannot be used for the purpose of a native area, that is to say the adjoining farmers will have to put up with all kinds of crimes.

As regards (*e*) of terms of reference, there is no possibility for us to acquire land for that purpose, for native areas. Can the Government supply us with farms of the same value as the farms in that mentioned area, No. 4?

Mr. JAS. A. DICKS.] I am of opinion that the Buffalo Flats are absolutely unsuitable for a native area, because it is not the soil for a native. You have heard a lot about the Government saying we should sow more wheat in the country. Well, there is the best district for irrigation, and not only for irrigation but also for dry-land ploughing. Mr. Thompson has about 100 acres under mealies now; that same piece of land could be under wheat as soon as the mealies are off, and it could produce as good a crop as any district where irrigation is practised. That land is much more suited for Europeans. There are natives to-day—my own neighbours (they are good neighbours and I don't object to live next to them—but three kraals have shifted in succession from that farm, and they came to my farm absolutely starving. They had no mealies, and I had to keep them. Why is it? Because the native says: "There is your piece of land; you pay me £3 a year." He ploughs it for one year, but he cannot repeat it. The native says to me: "Baas, that land is finished"; I give him another piece I take the piece he has left and plough it properly and get a return from it.

This is not the only district I have land in. I have a beautiful farm in the Utrecht district to-day, but I can benefit the country more by remaining on the farm in the Buffalo Flats. I have owned farms in the Free State, too, but I am going to stick on the Buffalo Flats.

Mr. JAMES REILLY.] I have been in Natal 37 years and know the country. The ground between Helpmakaar and Ladysmith is far better for a location than it is here. That land gives a good return with very little fertilizer. You require a great deal more fertilizer around Newcastle. I own two farms in the affected area, and I do not wish to sell them because I think I can get the Buffalo on them, and they will be very valuable to me.

Mr. R. S. MILLER.] I have known the flats a long time and I think it is a bit of a mistake to take that land for native location. I do not mean to say they *are* going to take it. I think the black has shown that he cannot work the ground properly. We don't want to deprive them of the ground—let them continue—but if you must have a location, why not have it the same way as they do at Thabanchu? We do not want this neutral area business; it is only putting it off, as far as I can see. We are not going on to improve at all until this thing is settled. If they buy a little fertilizer they can put a good many more natives in the locality. There is plenty of room for natives there—they could take three times the number if they worked it properly. They want to be guided in their farming operations. At any rate, I don't want to make room for them; I want to live on my own ground.

Mr. S. T. JAMES.] I came here 40 years ago, and when I came there were very few natives here in this district. I had to go down country to bring natives here, and so had my father-in-law also, Mr. Dicks. It is only since the whites came here that the natives have come, and why are we to be turned out now because we have brought a few natives here?

Report of Native Evidence taken at Newcastle, Natal, on 31st October, 1917.

PHILIP MTEMBU.] I see that the Committee has come on an important matter. I have appeared on two previous occasions before Committees dealing with this particular matter; this is the third occasion. I am very sorry to hear, however, that the Com-

mittee is unable to entertain any matter which is not mentioned in the terms of reference which have been explained to us. It appears that the Committee has come here to listen to the views we hold with respect to the recommended native areas. I will be brief.

In respect of the Newcastle Division, I see that the recommended native area is on the Buffalo Flats. The matter which puzzles me is this: I find that the recommended area consists of farms that have already been bought by the natives with their own money. I do not see that there are any Crown lands there. I see, therefore, that it is unsatisfactory that the Government, in alloting a native area, should allot an area which has already been purchased by the natives with their own money. In that recommended native area there are farms belonging to Europeans, and I can see that the owners of those farms are much averse to their farms being sold or given to the natives. For that reason it is impossible for us to say to-day whether this native area is one which we approve of or not, because it consists largely of land which already belongs to the natives. Had the Government decided to declare as a native area Crown lands of an extent equal to the area embraced within the farm "Suspense" and the Inyanyadu, then we should have had something to say.

I do not wish to delay the discussion of this matter, but I will briefly repeat what I submitted to the previous Commissions. Our representations are that on account of the oppressive character of this law, which causes the hearts of both Europeans and natives to be very sore, it is clear that the Government recognise that the law causes intense dissatisfaction, as it has appointed no less than three Committees to consider the question of the land. Our request, therefore, is that we should be exempted or taken out of the provisions of the Natives Land Act of 1913 and of the proposed Native Affairs Administration Bill of 1917. We wish to have the provisions of Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1843 to apply to us, in which it was declared that there would be no legislation based upon any distinction of colour or creed and that the lands of the natives would remain unalienated. By virtue of the provisions of that proclamation we natives in Natal were able to buy land, and we are to-day the owners of land because of the existence of that law. Because of the oppressive character of the proposed law we ask that it may not apply to Natal and that we may enjoy the privileges we had under the former proclamation.

That is our request. It is impossible for us to say in what respect these native areas would be suitable or unsuitable. We wish to be allowed to enjoy the privileges which we had formerly.

Chief GAMALAKE.] The statement which has been made by the previous speaker is one which we assent to. We are at a loss to understand why this harsh measure separating us from the Europeans should be resorted to. We, the natives of Natal, request that we may be governed by the law under which we were formerly governed rather than that we should be separated in the manner which is proposed under this new law. The previous speaker has fully represented our views, so I will not make a lengthy statement.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, I am not a land-owner. I live on the farm "Donker Hoek," near Botha's Pass, belonging to Mr. Steyn. Some of my tribe are on the same farm; others are distributed over other farms. The conditions under which I live do not satisfy me, but I am serving my landlord and depending upon him. I agree thoroughly with the previous speaker, because we know that the recommended area is quite insufficient for the needs of all of us.

C. P. DHLAMINI.] With reference to the explanation which has been made to us by the Committee it is even as Mtembu has said—impossible for us to say that we approve of anything. Amongst other reasons is the one that the recommended area on the Buffalo Flats is not the property of the Government. It is fully occupied to-day by natives who bought it from the Government, and any natives who may be dispossessed of their tenancy would be unable to find room in that area. On that account it is utterly impossible for us to understand what the design of the Government is. Throughout the whole of our lifetime, as we were born practically under the white people, there has been nothing equal to this law. We recognise that the Government will by this measure introduce mistrust between ourselves and the Europeans, because when the country has been separated as is proposed then will arise a feeling of hatred between the respective peoples occupying those separate areas. That brings me to the request that this law shall not be applied to the Europeans and natives of Natal. Let us remain under the conditions under which we have lived. We recognise that we do not understand the meaning of this law. We who have been born in Natal maintain also that this is not a law of Natal; it comes from the place of its origin. We feel that it is a law which will bring about mistrust and hatred; a law which has no part in Natal and which has come from elsewhere.

I will try and illustrate my meaning in regard to what I have said: at this juncture, the war being raging in Europe, the King has asked for assistance from his native subjects in South Africa. The natives of Natal are not responding to the call which has been made to them. One of the reasons which makes the native hold that this Government is not the Government of Natal is the introduction of this law. It is customary when an appeal of this sort is made for the natives to respond immediately to an appeal from their King and

not to be merely silent. The new spirit has been occasioned by the introduction of this law, which makes the natives feel that they do not know whose subjects they are. They feel that this is not the King whom we knew, especially as the purpose is to confine us to certain specified areas. Our request is that we shall be permitted to enjoy the conditions and privileges extended to us under the Proclamation of Queen Victoria. We clearly understand that the area of the white people, or their place of residence, is chiefly in the towns, and that on the farms the natives are resident. We ask, therefore, that the Committee may recommend that the proposed Bill should not apply to Natal and that we may live under the conditions which have prevailed hitherto. We wish to continue to have the right of purchasing land. We have, since the introduction of the Natives' Land Act of 1913, been denied the privilege of buying land, and we have not been able to acquire any land since that date because there has been no native who was willing to sell his land to another native, natives having insufficient ground. We have only been able to buy land from Europeans and from Government.

By the Chairman.] I wish to say that as far as I have understood it the land of the Europeans has been that in the town areas, where they have built their houses. We have always thought that even if a farmer bought in the country he would subsequently return and take up his residence in the town.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there a tendency on the part of natives to converge and go towards industrial centres

Dhlamini.] There is a tendency for the natives to go to the towns now because of their being displaced of their tenancy on the farms and the security of land.

IZAAK MABASO.] We are glad that the Government has seen fit to send the Committee again to us here. We have heard the explanation of the instructions to your Committee, which have been read to us. We have only to say that what has been explained to us is quite opposed to our well-being. We in the Newcastle Division have our well-being bound up with the Europeans. We have horses that graze on the high veld farms of the Europeans continually, because there is no law which prevents us doing this, and on our farms there are certain farmers who hire grazing for their sheep in winter. This is to the mutual benefit of both. In this way our advancement takes place and we learn from them a different way of working. We find that the law which is being produced to-day is for our destruction. We were thoroughly satisfied with the Proclamation of 1843. It was that Proclamation which made us become a people. We have through contact with our European neighbours been able to pay for our farms and secure for ourselves a livelihood.

I produce a plan of settlement of "Gardensville," showing the allotments and provision for school and church. Many lands that have been bought by natives have been settled in this manner. With these remarks I wish to make the request that we may be allowed to enjoy the privileges which were extended to us by Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1843.

With regard to our people who are living on the farms, I submit that this new Bill brings in very objectionable measures. Some of the natives on the farms who have no children are resident there under agreement for the payment of rent. Such an agreement affords them freedom. We feel that it will be a great hardship if the Government is to come between us and our landlords with a law which will put an end to these conditions. We ask that the new law may not apply to Natal.

By Mr. Chapman.] I live at "Gardensville," Alcock's Spruit. I have two building plots. We have laid out a village on the farm. We have our separate allotments of arable land, also a commonage. The farm is governed by trustees—Joseph Mndawana, Aaron Gama, John Radebe, Izaak Mabaso and Josiah Nkabini.

It is within the choice of each individual owner to decide whether he accepts tenants or not. Yes, there are rent-paying tenants on the farm. Some are labour tenants, rendering labour in lieu of rent, and some pay £3 a year. Yes, one of the objectionable features of the law is that we shall not be allowed to have tenants.

I trust that the Almighty will so arrange that this law will not apply to us. I hope that the Government will hear the entreaties of its people. We have done everything we can to advance. We have schools to which the Inspector of Schools has just paid two days' visit to examine the children. In the village of which I hold the plan there is an allotment in the name of each individual owner. I am unable to give the acreage from memory.

I am afraid to give any definite answer to that question—as to where people who are turned off farms will go—because that is one of the matters which is an acute grievance to us. I cannot offer any suggestion as to what will become of these natives. That is one of the reasons why we ask that this law shall not be allowed to apply to us. It is possible that many of the rent-paying tenants may agree to become labour tenants.

The provision made is unsuitable, by reason of the fact that it belongs to other people. We feel that it is a hardship that the land set apart should be private property and not available for accommodation for natives.

I am unable to indicate any other land, but our request is that we shall be taken out of the operation of this law entirely. We feel acutely that this is class legislation.

GEORGE NACAMU.] Can you tell me whether there is in any other part of the King's dominions a law similar to this which is being proposed in South Africa? (He is told the position in New Zealand and North America.)

I hope it has been made clear by the previous speakers that it is not our intention to speak in any way which will make the Committee feel aggrieved or indignant. We know that this law has originated in Parliament at Cape Town, with which you probably have nothing to do. You have been appointed to deal with certain express matters and not given power to deal with the law itself. We fully understand that you have been given extensive powers. We have come, however, with a request to make to you. We hope that you will give consideration to our petition in regard to this law. We have had no opportunity of expressing our views to those who were responsible for the production of this measure. We get this opportunity of speaking to you at a time when the discussion has been closed. In asking for your consideration I have in mind what has been done by the English in previous times, early in the history of the Colony when there was a proposal to remove all the natives in Natal and place them beyond the Umtamvuna and Umzimvubu, but the English Government saw that was not suitable because the country in question was claimed by Faku, King of the Pondos. On that occasion the English Government considered it unfit that natives who were born in a particular part of the country and had the graves of their people there should be removed.

We realise that the recommended native areas and non-native areas have been delimited by the Commission, but we realise that the decison has not given satisfaction, many Europeans who have been included in native areas protesting strongly against their inclusion. This is among the reasons why we maintain that the law itself is unsuitable. We ask that the Government will defend us in regard to the settlement of the land. Had the Government decided to make an extensive partition of the country, dividing it into two and giving one half to the natives and the other to the Europeans, some satisfaction might have resulted. But the present delimitation under which a number of native farms are pointed out as the recommended native area and a number of other native farms are included in the European area, is unsatisfactory. To those natives who are likely to be removed from the farms it will appear as though the recommended native areas are to be locations in which they will have sanctuary, but we find that the recommended native area is wholly inadequate for such a purpose. Even our Chiefs here are living on the farms of Europeans under agreement.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I am a member of the Congress. We knew that the Bill had been decided upon when Stephen Mini and his two colleagues went down. Yes, we had an opportunity of speaking before Sir William Beaumont's Commission. What I wish to submit was that the law first originated with the idea of territorial segregation and when it was first mooted we should have been consulted and our views obtained.

JOSEPH NDIMANDE.] This is the second occasion on which I have appeared before the Natives' Land Committee. I ask when has the Government began to pay any heed to our entreaties when we have cried? We were never told of the offence we had committed as the ground for our being separated from the Europeans. The Government knows that they are our help; how do they imagine that we are to fare if we are to be thrown outside? From the very first moment that we heard of this law we protested and complained against it, and throughout the passing of this law we have constantly complained. This is the first occasion on which the Government has been deaf to the cries of its people. It is making us ponder in our hearts as to what kind of Government this is that is deaf to the cries of its children.

All those here present to-day were born in Natal, and to-day we are all alarmed at the proposal that we should be separated from the Europeans. You to-day whom I am addressing, would you be glad if you were being driven away from your father and mother? You see us to-day with faces of grief. We are at a loss to understand what offence we have committed. I fully understand that you are merely the messengers of the Government. My petition is that the Government should have consideration for us, the native people of Natal, and that the old law which was proclaimed in the days of Queen Victoria should be revived. You can see that in our manner of addressing you we address you as our fathers. We trust, therefore, that the Committee will have consideration for us. We could not be driven out, not having offended. Our view of this question of territorial segregation is that we are being driven out.

Chief NKABANE.] The previous speakers have submitted representations with which we all concur. Living, as we do, on the farms of Europeans, many of us live peaceably. There came the law of the Government requiring that farms should be fenced, and that was amongst the first of our troubles and one of the reasons why we no longer live peaceably. We then first began to understand that the purchase of a farm sometimes meant that the purchaser had bought the river, because cattle were not allowed to drink there in common. We do not know of any river that can be bought. The idea of territorial separation is one that is entirely strange to us. From the outset we have been subject to the white people in this district.

Our petition is that we be allowed to live as we have done hitherto amongst the Europeans. The conditions under which we lived in the time of Queen Victoria were entirely

satisfactory, and on the death of Queen Victoria we were assured that the conditions would continue, but that has not been so. The conditions under which we were governed previously were satisfactory. To-day there are no such conditions.

AMOS ZUYA.] I am one of the part owners of "Cavan," "Blaauwbosch Laagte" and "Jobstown." The previous speakers have already represented our views. They have spoken our words to the Committee. There is one question only I should like to refer to: Did the request for territorial separation emanate from the Europeans with whom we are living? I should like to know whether the request did emanate from them. (He is informed in the negative.)

I only wish to urge very strongly the request that has already been made that we should not be separated from the white people. We pray very earnestly that the whole of this law may come to nought, because we realise that the introduction of this law is most unsettling and disturbing and it causes us to lose confidence. We recognise that without confidence a wholly unsatisfactory state of affairs will prevail.

PHILIMON NXUMALO.] With regard to the question of agriculture, we have great difficulty in providing sufficient food for ourselves from the land at our disposal. With regard to the recommended areas, they are already congested. There is insufficient grazing for stock and insufficient arable land for cultivation. The operation of the Natives' Land Act has resulted in our being cramped in regard to our stock and in regard to our ploughing areas. We have been hampered in every way and suffered hardships. We all maintain that this law is wholly unsatisfactory, and the successive Commissions that have been appointed are proof that the Government itself found it difficult to make this law workable.

We ask that we may be allowed to revert to the privileges which were assured to us by Cetshwayo on his return from England and which were embodied in Queen Victoria's Proclamation that our rights would be observed and that we would not be disturbed in our possession of the land. We would greatly appreciate the work of the Commission if they will report to the Government that on viewing the recommended area they found it insufficient for the natives and if they will report our representations to the Government.

Philip Mtembu expresses thanks on behalf of the chiefs and all others for the patient hearing they have been accorded. "We wish the Committee a successful tour, and hope they will be able to complete the important work upon which they are engaged."

Report of Evidence taken at Dundee, Natal, in the Magistrate's Court Room on Nov. 2nd, 1917.

Mr. H. RYLEY.] As President of the Dundee District Agricultural Society, welcomes the Committee and states order in which witnesses will speak, Messrs. Stein and Tandy having been deputed to speak on behalf of the Society.

Mr. WALTER STEIN.] The evidence we wish to lay before you to-day has been made very simple by our reference to this paper (terms of reference), and we have to thank you for giving us this opportunity of absolutely slanging our opposition. In a poor case a lawyer is always instructed to slang his opposition. In this case the Government has instructed you to come here and we have to prove the bad case on the other side.

The evidence I want to put first will be as regards Colonel Stanford's evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Parliament. Colonel Stanford said that Natal had neglected to appear before the main Commission in 1913-1916. Now, gentlemen, Colonel Stanford's Commission advertised that those who knew of land available and suitable for native occupation were requested to give evidence. I consider, gentlemen, it would have been the height of folly for anyone of us who did not know of land suitable for native occupation to appear before that Commission and simply tell them we did not know of any land. If they had advertised that they were coming round to *take* land from us every one of us would have been there to protect our own.

Then, gentlemen, I have also to repudiate the evidence given by our Magistrates, Giles and Cross. These gentlemen were asked to find land suitable for native occupation; without consulting anybody they sat down with a map in front of them and took what they reckoned was the line of least resistance; they saw that certain lands were already owned by natives and so it did not matter who they included. It simply was that they marked off such and such farms, and they roped us all in. Gentlemen, I put in the evidence of the Utrecht Magistrate, who was asked to find land suitable for native occupation in his division, and his reply was that there was no land suitable for native occupation. As a proof, not a single acre of land was taken for natives in the Utrecht Division. I don't think you could have any more complete evidence of the folly and unfairness of these two Magistrates in roping us in without giving us any intimation of what they were doing.

Now, as regards Area No. 4, the two farms I am personally interested in are "Flint" and "Fairbreeze." "Flint" is a matter of 1,109 acres, and I have occupied it for

nearly 20 years. During that time I got married; I reared my family; we built our homestead; the children grew up around us; we planted trees, and I buried my wife there. I defy the Government to take it from me. The improvements on "Flint" run into a homestead, cattle kraals, stables, stores, dip, 18 miles of fencing and trees; of the trees alone there are 2,500 in full growing lines of gums, also wattles, black wattles, and fruit trees over and above that. I can only ask the Commission to put in their report whether the place looked bad or well when they rode over the district yesterday.

On "Fairbreeze," which is 1,043 acres in extent, there is a homestead, stable, dairy, milking shed, dip, borehole, windmill, and 8 miles of fencing. Now when I went on to that place there was only a little blue (stone) house. When I went on to "Flint" there was a little white (stone) house which I took down and put into my cattle kraal. My tenant on "Fairbreeze" is running his ten years' lease, and under this Bill, gentlemen, when this lease is finished he is to be deported without any trial, because he is not allowed to stay on, and if my son is not ready to occupy at that time it has to be turned into a Kafir ranch. Government may have the option of buying it, but if I am not prepared to take their price they will try to freeze me out, and in that case the only thing I have to do is to fill it up with Kafirs, and it is not a very bright prospect.

Now, as regards paragraph 1 of the order of reference, actual occupation by the natives is in full force; beneficial occupation does not exist in any shape or form. In a vast number of cases there is no homestead at all; in others there are good little homesteads, but in most of them the Government homestead is practically a ruin. As you could see yesterday, on the farm "Mullingar," the homestead is a ruin, there is nothing standing but the shell of the of the house; the wood and iron, doors and windows, have been pulled out and have been sent to Kingsley and put in the man's town residence. On the next farm, "Clones," the front half of the house was finished 20 years ago; the stone work of the back half still lies there without any roof on it for 20 years. That is how it has stood for all these years: it is used for a place for mealies, and as a pigsty alternately. To come on to the farm "Trim," there is one solitary little blue house which I pointed out to you gentlemen yesterday; there is neither one hut nor another round it, and it has stood in that condition for 20 years. I cannot see how that is beneficial occupation. You come on to "Milford": a blue stone house was erected there in 1896, when I first went into the district. A Free State mason called Frank Bowes was paid £14 in hard cash for the building of that house; the timber and iron of that house cost £30 (I know the cash that was actually paid), put the stone and the building at another £20- roughly speaking for £70 of cash value this man received a title of beneficial occupation for £200 from the Government. On that certificate of £200 they were allowed to proceed and occupy their farms, without paying their rents. At the beginning of 1903 I had the privilege of putting a letter in the papers calling attention to the rents being so far behind and calling attention to the fact that the Surveyor-General threatened to sue me for my rent three months behind. That letter caused so much trouble that the Lands Commission of 1903 wrote and asked me to give them information. Now, gentlemen, that shows you that there is no beneficial occupation by natives on these lands—the roof of the homestead to-day mostly covers a pig-kraal.

That farm ("Milford") was sold at Christmas last year for 28s. 6d., having originally been bought by the Kafirs for 10s. an acre. The difference between 28s. 6d. and 10s. is not earned increment, but is the unearned increment of lands like "Flint" and "Blaauwbank" on every side, and that is where the whole value of these Kafir farms comes in. If they are being sold at 25s. and 30s. an acre it is not on account of the improvements on land, but it is simply on account of the few Europeans among them who have shown them what can be done. "Milford" was bought by a European—Cornforth & Co. "Westport" and "Poona" were bought at the same time and they have been turned over to Europeans—Drs. Chambers and Campbell, of Dannhauser. I want to call your attention to the farm "Poona": during the three months since it has been taken over a homestead has been built; there is a borehole at the house which is giving a matter of 160 gallons per hour, but he is not satisfied with that, as a European, so he has put down another borehole from which he draws 800 gallons per hour. When he came the stone wall was lying over, propped up with wattle poles. I may mention that on "Flint" there is also a borehole from which we are drawing anything up to 2,000 gallons of water an hour.

Now, to come to the farm "Peach Hill," gentlemen, which is on the other side of "Flint"—that farm was originally bought at 10s. The Kafirs bought it from A. H. Tatham in 1906. They could not get their title-deed for the land because the Natal Government passed a resolution that none of these lands which had been thrown open in Newcastle Division should be transferred to natives if they had originally been bought by Europeans. That resolution was passed on the strength of the report of the Commission of 1903 that the native was not beneficially occupying his land. To-day those natives have no title-deed for their land and about three years ago the Land Board of Natal sent up Mr. Bennett to see how that land could be blocked up for European occupation. I took him over myself, also over "Newport," which is in the same position. The Land Board, however, found that as the natives had paid certain sums of money and held receipts

for the money that there was going to be trouble, and so they let the matter simply slide. To-day the natives are in occupation; they hold receipts for the money they have paid, but the last few instalments have not been paid at all. These farms are both in the same condition: on "Peach Hill" the homestead is a ruin and the timber and iron is scattered out amongst the different members of the community. Now, these natives in 1906 when they bought the farm, found the homestead there—an old Dutch place ruined by the war, and they put it in proper repair, but they never lived in it; they lived in the huts alongside. Then they found the uselessness of it and they sold the iron, etc., here and there. These are the improvements on the native side.

Now, as regards the European improvements, you must take the whole lot from Tayside Station to the demarcated area; it was practically all sold at the same time as this proposed native area, and what do you find? You find that the moment the railway went through to Vryheid we Europeans demanded a station there. We had to fight for it; there was a very strong Dutch element on the opposite side of the water; they held a lot of land and they were determined to get the station on the left bank of the Buffalo River. We had to fight, to fight and to fight until we succeeded in getting it on our side. Then the Railway put down a siding and made it the most convenient place for water and changing traffic. To-day we have a station-master and a clerk. To-day thousands of bags of mealies, tons of teff hay, trucks of cattle, trucks of pigs, trucks of wool, pigs, cream, butter and eggs are all sent from that sation—day in and day out, and our return loads keep those men going. Every farm carries a comfortable homestead, with trees planted and everything that an ordinary European can want. We have one school there; we have other schools further on. Everything has been done to draw trade to the station and to make the place a comfortable place to live in. I was using Hatting Spruit at that time, and when the Tayside people wanted a station, although it was two miles further to go there was only a difference of 1d. per 100 lbs. in the rates, I said: "Very well; I will go," and everyone of us did our best to make it a success. What is to go to that station if we are turned out? There is nothing to come off those native lands; a few hundred bags of mealies would cover the whole lot.

Then, gentlemen, the cultivation of the native lands, as you saw yesterday, is still weak. Here we are, after all this lovely season, and hardly an acre of native lands turned over. In the month of April last year my neighbour on "Blaauwbank" sold to the natives £28 worth of green mealies at the rate of two cobs a penny—a matter of 13,400 cobs into that little district. Now, if that does not show that these natives were absolutely starving I do not know what it does show. If you had visited "Blaauwbank" yesterday you would have seen the mealies a foot to eighteen inches high, scuffled twice already and as clean as the floor of this courthouse. You would have seen his potatoes in splendid condition and beautifully cultivated. That is the cultivation that can be done on such farms as the Commission desires to take away from us.

Now, before leaving Dundee Division, I ask the Commission to take special note of the farm "Blaauwbank." Apart from the agricultural value, that farm belongs to our late Government Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Wiltshire, at present resident in England. His son, with the Imperial forces, was wounded in the Dardanelles; he recovered and went to Egypt. He is now invalided home, and when that young man comes out to claim his inheritance he is to be told: "There is a dirty cheque for you; your land is wanted for the Kafirs." Now, gentlemen, I ask you is that the way in which our land is to be treated?

To deal with the portion in Newcastle Division, in which "Fairbreeze" is situated. So far as European occupation is concerned there is much more beneficial occupation visible than on the three little bits which are represented in the Dundee Division. There are some 35 white farmers or thereabout in that Newcastle portion, every farm of which has been occupied for about 20 years—in one or two cases perhaps 15 or 16 years. These farms are all occupied for twelve months in the year. Many of the owners have their Free State farm and their thorn farm for the cattle, yet they do not use them: these Newcastle District farms are their home farms and they send away their cattle and sheep as they require, so they are in absolutely full occupation by the Europeans.

Area No. 4 is served just now by three Government aided schools for the Europeans, and these have an average of 35 children each. Over and above that the children are sent to Newcastle, Dundee and elsewhere for education. In Newcastle alone the Government hostel runs 60 children. Of course, all these do not come from Area No. 4, but a very considerable number do. Area No. 4 is served by the Utrecht Railway, and they have found that the value of the European produce going away is so great that they have erected four sidings or halts within an area of eight miles. Now you won't find a railway company putting down a halt if there is nothing there but Kafirs. Only recently a valuable deposit of oxide was discovered and that is going away regularly. I know the stuff is going away week in and week out. Once the war is over, instead of being a weekly sending off it may be much more frequently.

In Newcastle I saw a photograph of the Dicks family—some 15 or 16 boys, all in khaki, sons and grandsons, and every one of those lads will forfeit their farm—their father's portion or their mother's portion—if this Bill goes through.

Mr. Stein then described the state of beneficial occupation of native-owned farms in Newcastle Division as being identical with those in the Dundee portion.

Now, gentlemen, I think from what I have told you that you should be satisfied that the native occupation of our district is not beneficial, and I think you will agree with me that it is not to be wondered at that we Europeans absolutely repudiate such reports as those of Giles and Cross, which resulted in that area. The natives in that entire district are absolutely bankrupt; that farm "Jobstown" is one of the few farms where they have kept clear of debt. There are "Jobstown," "Kilkeel," "Cavan" and another—that makes four; there might be others—all the rest are bonded to the masthead with European money, and if the native at 10s. an acre could not make these farms come out where is the Government going to get money out of them at their expropriation price?

I want to bring before your notice the report of the Natives' Land Commission, Appendix No. 8: a special Commission was sent to the Umzimkulu District to consider what they should do with the land, and their report is first as regards Mount Currie:—

> "That the whole district be declared a European area, including Makoba's Location, but that the natives be not disturbed in their occupation unless the Government is able to make satisfactory provision for them elsewhere."

And then, as regards the Umzimkulu District:—

> "That the block of farms marked 'B' on the map ..... (see Appendix to Report) ..... so that the land can be sold to either European or native purchasers as desired."

Now, gentlemen, I ask you to read "Area No. 4" in place of Umzimkulu, so that Area No. 4 be left uninterfered with, so that the land can be sold to either European or native purchasers as desired.

And this Commission has the decency to give their reasons for it, as follows:—

> "This block of land has recently been enhanced in value by reason of the construction of the railway line to the Umzimkulu, and has been readily taken up by European farmers. It includes a number of native-owned farms which we are informed are all heavily mortgaged, and the proposal to leave matters as they are appears to be the wish of both the European and native owners."

If those gentlemen—that first Commission—had followed that out; if our magistrate had followed that out—had laid such a report as that before the Commission, they would never have dared to take our land.

Put Area No. 4 there and increase its value to its full value and what do you find? Instead of the railway to Umzimkulu you have—this land has increased in value owing to the line to Utrecht on the one side and to Vryheid on the other side, to the new Coal Company's line (next to the farm "Magdalena") and in another corner right to the farm "Cloneen." This area is tapped now by four railway lines, and, gentlemen, that tapping from Alcock Spruit does not mean that it is going to stop there; that line only touches the beginning of the coal seam, and right down to the farm "Fairbreeze" is already tested for coal. We have an outcrop on every spruit in that area, and are we who have bought this land and struggled to hold this land, are we to sacrifice it to the Kafirs by the order of the Governor-General, who *may* acquire the land?

Coming now to the stock on these farms: the cattle on the native farms are absolutely in the same condition as they were twenty years ago when they bought these farms. Not a single decent beast, or hardly one, has been imported into the country-side; the cattle are the same mongrels, which take 10 years to commence to grow and three years to finish off, as they did in the old days. The sheep are the same thing—you will find a bastard Merino ram here and there amongst the Kafirs, but otherwise the thick-tailed sheep wander over the whole district. Goats are the same thing that used to curse the country-side, and horses are smaller and more miserable than ever they were. If you take the European stock, on the other side, you gentlemen that have been through the district know that the Europeans are making a decided effort to improve their cattle, and you have nothing to do as a proof but to take the Newcastle Creamery. If you take the returns for January, 1917, the Newcastle and Dundee Creameries together turned out 70,000 pounds odd of butter. Now there is not one ounce of that butter that is made from native-provided cream—not one ounce. There is a certain amount of cream that comes from the lower districts to Newcastle, but against that you have to off set the cream that goes to Nels Rust and Mooi River Creameries, so that the return practically represents the output of cream for our entire district, and when the Creamery started five years ago there was only 170,000 lbs. in the whole year. Of course, it does not all come from Area No. 4, but that cream represents the return of the country from the European occupation, and you can ask Government for returns from the natives during the whole of that period and you will find you will get nothing. Now are we as Europeans to sacrifice that to the Union. The month of January when the 70,000 lbs. was turned out was, of course, the best in the year, but in the month of October, 1917, we turned out over 33,000 lbs. of butter alone in the Dundee Creamery, or half the best month of last year, which shows that the European is absolutely a good asset to the country.

Now, as regards Section 2, I consider that unless the Government is going to make land for Europeans in the same manner that it proposes to do for natives, it should leave well alone; I do not think that we should be sacrificed to such a faddist notion.

As regards any increased activity on the part of the native in agricultural pursuits, I think I have shown you that that does not exist (hear, hear! and "Quite right"). The young native to-day is a town dweller; he is a cigarette smoker and a bicycle rider and a curse to his family whilst he is down for his few months' holiday.

I think, gentlemen, I have given you all the evidence I possibly can.

Mr. Chapman.] What are your views with regard to this area as regards E, *i.e.* a neutral area? Would that not meet your objections?

Mr. Stein.] No, not at any money. Gentlemen of the Commission, can you imagine me sitting out there at my homestead doing nothing during those years that the Government are considering what is to be done with this neutral land? Can you imagine me spending another penny piece on permanent improvements, knowing that they might not come to my children? Such is the value of a neutral area.

The only thing to do is absolutely to leave us alone—neutral for all time. I agree with the Kafir opinion on the matter: "That Queen Victoria, in her wisdom, gave us the right to traffic and live in her land." I agree with that, with no restriction. My title-deeds are mine and I have no objection to the land being let next to me. The best proof of deterioration is that my land from 10s. has gone up in increased ratio to that of "Milford," alongside of me. If "Milford" land has gone up to 28s. 6d., what shall my land go up to? I should be delighted to have European neighbours, and the land would become more valuable.

There is one point, gentlemen, I did omit: that our title-deeds give us the one Government reservation of roads, railways, bridges, telegraphs, etc., for public benefit and use. If the title-deed had not clearly marked off that class of public benefit, then the Government might have read in "Kafir use and benefits," but those title-deeds shall not be changed before they go to Westminster. I claim my title-deeds and I will fight for them.

Mr. D. W. H. TANDY.] In the first place, I wish to put in a couple of resolutions that were passed at a public meeting held here about three months ago, when the Masonic Hall was packed with farmers and land-owners. They were sent to Sir Thomas Watt and the other members of the Ministry.

(Mr. Tandy puts in copies of resolutions, which are annexed.)

I shall probably touch upon one or two points in which I may not be in order, but I crave your condescension.

The evidence I intended to bring before the Commission in Cape Town is of the following nature. I speak as one who lives here and hopes to live and die here and see the district go ahead. The present Parliament was elected for the purpose of supporting General Botha's Ministry in so far as a successful prosecution of the war was concerned, and it was generally understood that no contentious measure should be brought forward, consequently the Parliament does not represent the feelings of the constituents in so far as a matter like this is concerned. A matter like this should be left until after the war.

I wish to touch upon the change of habits in the native. The native has changed very considerably indeed during the last 30 years. He used to be a semi-agriculturist, after a fashion. He does not cultivate his lands to-day; he never did and never will. He goes to the industrial centres and comes back and purchases his needs. A native's kraal at the present moment is not a producing centre; it is his country residence, to which he retires after he has worked very, very hard for a month or two.

The present lands in the locations—and I will defy anyone to contradict me—if scientifically cultivated are capable of producing all the requirements in them at the present day and a very great number of others, too. So far as those lands are concerned, what is the habit? Because that man's father once had a bit of land out there it is to remain his for all time. How does he cultivate that land? The native looks upon the land as his if he has once touched it. He scratches the surface; plants it; has a beer drink to hoe it, and his guests hoe out as many mealies as weeds, because they get drunk; and is surprised if he gets the magnificent yield of nearly half a muid to the acre. Then he comes and talks about hunger. If he worked and cultivated his lands as the peasants do at Home, they would produce far more than the needs of the locations for many years to come.

I will give you one concrete instance in so far as the lands are concerned. About 25 to 30 years ago when Sir Frederick Moor (then Mr. Moor) was a member of the Natal Government there was an excess of funds in the Native Affairs Department. There was a farm of about 8,000 acres on the Injasutu, called "Maritzdam." This farm was bought out of those funds for the natives. What is the position of that farm to-day? It does not produce that (Mr. Tandy snaps his fingers), but Mr. Robert Gray's farm alongside, a dry land farm, produces 2,000 muids of mealies, which he sells to the natives. That shows the native is not a proper person to own any land until he is educated up to cultivate it scientifically.

Now, if this Bill goes through we have no means whatever of enforcing its different clauses and conditions. Take the position as we are to-day: take our police; they have

absolutely no control of any sort or kind over the natives here. Please don't misunderstand me; I don't wish to say anything personally against any member of the force, but the system is entirely wrong. As we are at present we have no control over the natives, and what little information they get is from the European owners and farmers. Take the collection of your taxes: along comes a policeman with his boots and spurs which glitter in the sun: all the boys clear off to the hills with the dogs and no taxes are collected. On the European farms they know the dogs and the taxes are collected.

But one point which I wish to emphasize is that in the locations sedition and disloyalty are bred. I am going to take you back to the time of the Langalibalele Rebellion, which emanated in what is now known as the Putili Location. The next big trouble was the Zulu War, which emanated in Zululand and the Tugela Location. Next to that we had the Bambata Rebellion, which emanated in the Tugela Location. You cannot trace any rebellion which emanated from natives resident on European-owned properties. (Some discussion on this point.) If you are going to increase the native areas so you are going to increase the responsibility in so far as looking after them is concerned.

Now, adding these huge quantities of land to the natives areas is going to have one effect, that is—the locking up of labour. As soon as you put natives on to native-owned land—you can see it in all Provinces—on this native-owned land they go on exhausting the soil and they stand at the fence of the adjoining farm and laugh at the farmer. Those natives will not work.

The definitions of "labour tenant" and "servant" will, I think, affect us very seriously. The definitions as set forth will be very disastrous to the whole lot of us, I think. All over Natal it is the custom of the working natives to work six months in and six months out. It is general to work for a certain wage for six months and then they can please themselves. They generally loaf for a bit and then clear off when it is time for them to come in and work. If that Bill goes through every single farmer will have to get his natives to do the impossible—get them to work year in and year out, or he will have to get a licence and go through the irksome and troublesome process outlined. Take this district of about 1,100 farms: it says we have to register those natives within six months. The magistrate cannot do it: he has not the staff to do it, and why should the farmer be put to the expense of advertising and coming in to town to register all his natives. The native is quite satisfied as he is at present; if he wants to go, let him go.

Now, as regards interference with titles and vested interests of individuals: it is not so very long ago that we had a rebellion which cost the country some millions of money, as well as many lives. That rebellion is supposed to have emanated from a magisterial fine of 5s. Well, what is going to happen if you interfere with a man's titles? Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, they are not going to stand it. I for one, will fight—any man would. We will not have our titles interfered with and we are not going to allow any Government to interfere with them without fighting for them.

You will remember when these Crown Lands were first sold in 1903 or 1904, at the first sale held in the Surveyor-General's office in Maritzburg, the lands in the vicinity of Glencoe and Dundee were sold. Show me a single piece sold to natives. Why? Natives were not allowed to buy. Good. After that sale I know gentlemen who waited upon the Government and then pointed out this and said: "Let us raise a certain section to the position of the white man and give him an opportunity of proving his capabilities: allow him to purchase land." As a result of this the native was allowed to buy on the Buffalo Flats at an upset price of 10s. an acre. The first thing he did was to contravene the regulations by putting other natives on so that he could get his money for the instalments. For the first year or two the land was fertile and had not been exhausted. That land produced and brought into the markets of Newcastle and Dundee hundreds and hundreds of bags of mealies. Where are they to-day? There are none. Why? Because the native has exhausted the land. The stalks are eaten by the cattle and the very dung of the animals is all collected and burned. The fertility of the soil is a national asset, and it will be a crying disgrace if the Government allows that fertility to be destroyed by natives, or white people either.

So far as the mineral resources are concerned, I am very pleased to see Mr. Heslop is here, because he will give you far more information than I can, but there is a great deal of mineral wealth in that country, proved and unproved. Now we know at present that wherever you want to work minerals you want money. Good; you go along with a mining proposition to any capitalist and say: "I have a proposition: it is in a native area." He won't look at you, because you are at the whim of all these different Commissions to be appointed. They won't touch anything of that sort.

I will refer you to North's Report of 1877, which deals with the coal deposit at Job's Kop in Area No. 6. The Dundee coal-fields are being exhausted; other fields are getting exhausted, so that coal has to be used sooner or later and it lays in the proposed location. If it is included in a native location there will be very great difficulty in getting capital to work it.

I would like to put in this map showing the alternative railway scheme. It shows that the line passes through No. 6 Area, quite close to the coal. Now that line has to be constructed sooner or later, because the demands of commerce will ensure its construction.

If so, then the whole of those fertile lands—and there are a lot of irrigable lands—will be close to a coal mine and a very great national asset.

I can quite bear out what Mr. Stein has told you about occupation of these different farms on the Buffalo Flats. I was on one recently and there is nothing left but the walls. The native as an owner of land is an absolute failure and he is not a national asset. The owner of land should be a national asset insomuch as he should produce something to put into the market.

Mr. W. E. T. HESLOP.] There is really not much for me to say, unless it were to remind you of the story of the parson who was reproached for preaching his sermons twice over, and he retorted that his congregation did not pay any attention to the first and he would preach it until they did.

The main point that I should like to reiterate, Mr. Chairman, is that the habits of the natives are changing. The conditions of the country are changing, and with the changing conditions and the development of the industrial resources of the country the habits of the natives are changing, and they are becoming industrial workmen instead of agriculturists. I do not think that we can impress that upon you and upon the Government too strongly. We have to realise that the habits of the natives will necessarily change very slowly; that for the last 20 years they have gone in increasing numbers to work—left their homes and made their temporary homes where their work is in increasing numbers. The time is coming—we see abundant evidence of it—that the native will not be content to live in what after all is an unnatural manner, *i.e.* away from his family, so that in future we shall have to provide them with homes where their work is. That, to some extent, is being done in a haphazard fashion, but it ought to be tackled in a very carefully thought-out manner, because the change of a native from a rural dweller to a town dweller involves very serious reasons indeed, and one of the most important things to be considered in dealing with this question is the organization of town and mine locations where natives can bring up their families in decency, in comfort, and under sanitary conditions.

I am not going to trouble you with a repetition of the evidence which I gave you before, but there is one point which I should like to mention, which is to some extent new: we have, under the proposal of the Commission, a total of $43\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of Natal to be set out as a native location. When we get to the Free State we get down to 1·4. Now, if large areas are laid out for native occupation and purchase in Natal as proposed and if the areas are limited, as they are in the Free State or as they are in the whole of the Transvaal, except the northern portion, or the whole of the Cape Colony, except the eastern district, then what is going to happen is that we will have natives from the other Provinces coming down here and further crowding our locations. We are going to be in the position of providing land for the other Provinces who want it for themselves or for their own natives. I think, gentlemen, it is exceedingly necessary we should register a protest against such taking place, and that in any legislation there ought to be a provision which will restrict the movement of natives from the other Provinces to take up land, either as owners or tenants, in Natal.

Mr. Chapman points out General Botha's statement that there is not the slightest intention to bring in any fresh natives.

Mr. Heslop.] And they will take steps to prevent it?

Mr. Chapman.] Is it generally satisfactory, both to the mine-owner and the native, to take advantage of the provision of homes for the workers?

Mr. Heslop.] That is really a big question, Sir. The homes where natives are living with their families on the farms have increased during the last 17 years, while I have had it under observation, from practically nothing to very considerable numbers. I should say there must be at least on the mines of Natal 800 to 1,000 native dwellings of workmen who are living on the mines with their families. Those workmen, instead of working six months and then going away, have acquired the habit of working about, I should say, 11 months out of the 12. Now, there are two serious difficulties—there are three difficulties which require to be very carefully tackled. There is the question of immorality with women. It is well known that in any European garrison town where you have soldiers away from any women folk that you have a very much greater amount of immorality than you have in the ordinary country town, where people are living under natural conditions. Now, our natives here in the compounds are practically in the same category as the soldiers in a European camp, and what I maintain, Sir, is this: as the proportion of married natives on the mines increases the difficulty with regard to immorality would gradually decrease.

Then, of course, there is the question of liquor. That requires a good deal of care in controlling. In some cases very little has been done; in other cases the compound managers on the mines assist the police as much as possible in limiting the amount of liquor. The Native Beer Act allows the native to brew one gallon per head. As a practical compromise, not officially recognised, the general practice is that the police or the compound managers take no cognizance of any brewing in paraffin tins—if they limit themselves to a paraffin tin nothing is said, but if they start on the casks then it is time to take action.

Then, of course, whether it is in the towns or mines, if we are bringing the natives together, living in close neighbourhood to each other, it is necessary that a good deal

should be done in the way of seeing that houses are built in a proper fashion and in erecting proper sanitary arrangements. Where you have natives living at far distances from each other you can pretty well dispense with sanitary arrangements, but where they are close together it is necessary that both houses should be properly built and that there should be proper sanitary arrangements, and these points all mean that in either mine or town locations there should be a very efficient and thorough European supervision.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you provide land for these people to cultivate?

Mr. Heslop.] We tried it originally, but we found that they did not take advantage of it. About as much as we ever get is a native having perhaps two yards square of mealies in front of his house; this seems the average in a general way. The natives are working on the mines and they prefer to purchase their supplies. We allow them rations from the mines.

Mr. Chapman.] Rations for the whole family?

Mr. Heslop.] We allow an extra amount of rations for the man with a family, which practically provides for the family.

The tendency is distinctly to congregate round industrial centres, both in the mines and in the towns.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you find this class of native as regular a worker as the one who comes alone

Mr. Heslop.] On the whole, yes, but there is a certain proportion who are not regular. In the main, the condition is that we get them for all the year round instead of six months, and those natives become quite skilled at their work. They are much more valuable as workmen.

Mr. Marwick.] Has it not been the experience of some mines that these locations degenerate into a collection of loafers and idlers?

Mr. Heslop.] It is exceedingly necessary to have strict supervision, because if the mines are willing to allow it what happens is that a certain class of native simply brew beer *ad lib.* and sell it to the others, and they can make a much better and easier living at this than by working, so that if the mine does not exercise a strict supervision in preventing that sort of thing it is bound to happen.

Mr. D. C. UYS.] Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission. It is very difficult for me after the two previous speakers have explained everything, as far as I can see, about the case, but, after all, I do not think they have gone far enough. I think they have only gone as far as the present is concerned and very little in the future. Let us look back to about 70 or 80 years ago—what this country was and what it is to-day. At that time it was a country inhabited by nothing else but barbarians; to-day it is a civilized white country, occupied by white people.

At that time, at least 40 years back, that part known as the Buffalo Flats was so bad that it was even impossible for Kafirs to have existed on it. To-day it has been turned into a white man's country by the European population, and the credit is not due to the Government; it is due to the Europeans themselves. To-day the Government is trying to take that land from the Europeans again and give it back to the Kafirs to try and make it as it originally was. Take into consideration what the country was 80 years ago and what it is to-day, and consider what it will be in another 80 years to come. Even among the natives at that time things were quite different, because in those days if a Kafir woman was unfaithful to her husband she was killed: what are girls worth to-day to their fathers? There are to-day all kinds of disease amongst natives through their immorality. At the South African Party Congress it was proposed that the Government should provide doctors specially for those Kafirs, to look after them, for fear that our children might inherit the different kinds of disease which the Kafirs have to-day through their immorality.

What benefit do we farmers derive from the Kafirs to-day: They do as much farming as we do ourselves and they absolutely refuse to do any work for us. If I used to come to Mr. Cross, the late magistrate—sitting here, and ask him to have a Kafir arrested, he used to say: "You have no right; you have no proper agreement," and I defy Mr. Cross to deny it; such is the case with nearly all our magistrates, and it is getting worse and worse. If you go to the Kafir and ask him to make a contract he blankly refuses; he says: "My ancestors used to work for your ancestors without any agreement: why do you want one to-day?" We are between the devil and the deep blue sea—on the one side we have the Kafir and on the other side the law to protect him.

What benefit can be derived from a native living in a location? The example we had during the rebellion of Bambata—where they caught one of our sergeants, cut the soles of his feet off and drove him in front of them—that is what the Kafir locations breed and the Government cannot deny it. They never had one out of a hundred of the Kafirs who at the time went into rebellion living on white men's farms.

The Chairman.] Was Bambata not living on a private farm?

Mr. Uys.] It was on a white man's ground where the white man did not come; he was just using it as a location himself.

The Chairman.] Most of his men came from private farms also?

Mr. Uys.] Also from unoccupied winter farms where people sent their stock down only. There is proof of it that the Kafirs even went against the owners of the farms, because

they objected to the farmers sending their stock down there. We have been told that the Kafirs over-stock the country and we have not room for them. It is absolutely untrue; there are hundreds of acres in the locations which are not cultivated by Kafirs at all, because it seems to be a habit with them that if one has been living on a certain piece for many years he won't let another Kafir come near him to cultivate.

Below Job's Kop the Government went to the expense of getting water out of the Tugela by a big water furrow. What was the consequence of that? During the rebellion I was sent to capture a couple of the chiefs there, and the result was that we got to the furrow and found it as deep as a house. We saw it had not been utilized and was so bad that I could not get across it at all. That is a clear proof even if the Government were to try and irrigate all their lands they do not know how to use it and make the best of it.

What has not Government done for the Kafirs already? The Europeans may drink as much as they like, but of course the law prohibits the Kafir. Then there are detectives appointed and these go round and drive the poor white to go and buy liquor for the native and of course they get run in for it. Is it right or just? Through the instrumentality of these detectives we allow our fellow Europeans to be belittled through the fault of the Kafirs.

The Kafirs living on the farms pay 14s. a hut to the Government, but the owners of the farms get nothing for it. They are supposed to work six months out of the year, but they are quite satisfied to pay 14s. a year to the Government and live on the white man's property. I know of Kafirs who lived on my father's farm 40 years ago and went to Newcastle district and bought land of their own. They had cattle and property of their own, and to-day they are anxious to come back, because they say the only way of making a living is on a white man's farm.

When I came out of jail in 1902, after the Anglo-Boer War, I had nothing—I had not an animal of my own, and there were Kafirs round me who had lots of cattle. To-day they have nothing, but I have a good many.

Is it just and right that this land should be bought up and given to the Kafirs to the detriment of our own children and grandchildren? It would be to much greater advantage if the Government were to appoint men to go through the whole country to see where there are open lands. It would be much better than to appoint a Commission to take the evidence which we can tell you. We see that General Botha has said it is not the Government's intention to get any Kafirs in from other Provinces. In the Cape Colony there are several farmers who complain and say that they have only one boy to look after their sheep, and I am surprised that our Natal Kafirs do not go there and look for work.

I am certain of it that if I asked any gentlemen who have been living here for a long time they would say they did not know of natives stealing then, and to-day they steal anything from a needle to an anchor. There is a farmer living near the mines who bought stud rams from the Government at £80 each; several of them were killed by the Kafirs—all those who do not earn their wages on the mines have to get their living in some way. They all say it is more beneficial to them to work on the mines, because they run no risk.

The Chairman here pointed out that the evidence was hardly on the lines indicated in terms of reference.

Mr. Uys.] How can you believe all my evidence unless I can justify it by facts leading up to it. I have nothing more to say beyond what Mr. Stein and Mr. Tandy have said.

Mr. G. J. WOOD.] I understand that the evidence we gave here before is already recorded, so it is no use going over the same ground again.

Mr. Chapman asked about Area No. 4. I know nearly all the natives personally and I am a Commissioner of Oaths. I have had a good deal to do with these natives in attesting documents, and I know from my own personal knowledge that nearly all these farms are bonded. I cannot give definite numbers, because I am sworn to secrecy, but still I do know that nearly every farm is bonded; there may be two or three exceptions.

I was present at the land sale 21 years ago when these farms were sold. I have had my farm ever since; I have lived on it ever since—built a house, fenced it, made paddocks, and so on. Those natives in No. 4 Area bought land on the same day as I did. The Commission have seen their farms and have seen their 20 years' improvement. Now that should be sufficient to assure the Commission as to the use of giving land to natives if they have made so little use of it after 20 years' trial.

My house is on the main road to Tayside Station, and I see practically everything going to the railway. I know that all my European neighbours—everyone—is sending cream away. Only this morning I saw something like 30 cream cans lying at the station. These are all produced by European farmers; not one is produced by natives, although they have had exactly the same opportunities as we have. There is not one native producing an ounce of cream. Mr. Stein has told you what the creameries are turning out; that cream is entirely produced by Europeans. Now, supposing you are going to take all those European farms to put natives on them, you are going to close up the Creamery, but if you put it the other way and allot those native farms to Europeans who are fighting at the Front, in a few months you would double the amount of cream. Which is the better policy—to take away the white man's land and produce nothing, or to put white men there

and double the output in six months? The thousands of bags of mealies produced there are all produced by white men; the native does not produce enough for himself after 20 years on the land, and yet you propose to take it away and give it to natives.

The Chairman here corrected Mr. Wood as to the *taking* and *giving* of land.

Mr. Wood.] Supposing you are left there, what are you going to do if all your neighbours except yourself has sold to natives? If I am left with Kafirs all round me there would not be school, nor church, nor anything else. Supposing only two or three are left there and have Kafirs all round us, don't you see that they will make our lives unbearable? We will simply have to chuck the farms away. They would come and stab a beast or two and break your fences down. They would simply drive you away. It would simply become a Kafir location, in the same state that it was 50 years ago.

My farm is not in the area; it is just outside, but I know the area perfectly well. I know the natives have made no improvements whatever during the 20 years, and for that reason I am here to protest against that area being declared a native area. It is eminently suitable for European occupation, and it ought to be a European area, not a native area. That is the reason why we are going to protest strongly against this No. 4 Area being declared a native area.

Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I am quite certain the natives take on tenants. That is the general custom—to draw rents out of them so as to help in paying their instalments.

Mr. A. J. SPIES.] Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Committee, I think everything has been sold, but I will also endeavour to try and tell you something. As regards those lands falling in the Newcastle and this division which the Government thinks of bringing into a native area, we are quite satisfied those lands don't suit the natives. They do not make the best use of them. It is more than 20 years since those lands were sold. White people have bought some of the lands, and up to the present it has been proved that all the lands bought by the Europeans have been beneficially occupied and very greatly improved. As far as I know, most of those people have still got their land free, and consequently they must have been able to make their farming pay.

As regards the Kafirs, I talk from experience, because I have three pieces of land under rental. For the three pieces I pay £25, £18 and £15. The one I pay £25 for is named "Verdriet," but the Kafirs told me that if it was not for the money they get from me they could not pay their instalments. As regards the buildings themselves, sufficient has been said, but as regards the cultivation of the land it is customary for the Kafirs to plough a new piece every year, and the consequence is that the ground is ploughed up from one end to the other and it has quite exhausted the land. In consequence thereof the majority of the Kafirs living there do not reap sufficient for their own consumption; they have to buy their own foodstuff. As far as I can see, they have no intention of making a living out of the farms, because they leave their families on the ground and go and work on the mines as soon as they get "pushed." If it were not for the fact that the mines always advance these Kafirs money, they would not be able to keep their families going, because they leave it to the last and the advance saves them.

It has been mentioned that Kafirs work on the mines along with their families. I know the compounds well, because I am living in amongst them. There is quite a number of Kafirs on the farms there who never do any work; they only brew beer. Right against my fence, on the boundary, there is a mine location where they brew beer in barrels and bury the barrels.

Although not on the boundary of the proposed native area, I can see that by making an area there a good many farmers will suffer a great deal, because if the natives do not make sufficient to live on they will go and steal from the farmers.

I know the farms down towards Job's Kop, in the Dundee Division, from the tick fever time, when they were without stock. Fortunately, on account of dipping, there is hardly a farm now there which is not occupied by a white man with stock. If the Government is going to take that land for native settlement, what is going to become of the white people living there? I think it would be very unjust on the part of the Government, not only to take one location but to make two locations in the Dundee Division, and I quite agree with the previous speakers on that point. One location would have been too much.

Mr. C. M. MEYER.] I am an old man already and I have been here for over 60 years. It was quite a wilderness when I came here. I understand the Government is thinking of making a native settlement, which would border on my land, and I think it would be a most unfortunate thing. What is to become of our children? The natives will congregate from all parts of Natal on to these locations, and you gentlemen will quite understand that if it is over-populated there will be nothing else but thieving and robbery. I am only thinking about our children and grandchildren if such were to happen.

Mr. T. MANUELL.] I have nothing new to say, but I would lay accent on a remark that Mr. Tandy made, and that was that the native as a farmer is a failure and that the land occupied by natives is not a national asset. These, I take it, are the fundamental principles that must be considered in considering this proposed Act. No doubt the intention of the Government in promoting this Act was to improve the status of the native, and I think we all agree with that: we should like to see the standard of living amongst the Kafirs very much raised, but the question is—will the ownership of land accomplish the

desired object? As far as I can see, the general opinion throughout the country is that it will have the opposite effect. The occupiers of locations are said to be the greatest loafers and thieves amongst the black people. Those who work are obviously the best natives and they are of most use to the country as a whole.

Mr. Heslop made a remark that I was very pleased to hear: that on the mines natives were working practically all the year through. Now we will never get skilled labour with six months on and six months off. I have never had six months' holiday in my life, and I have been at it nearly sixty years. If I apprentice a son six months on and six months off he will never learn a trade well, will he? And that applies to the native. I read the other day that five years' compulsory work would do the natives more good than all the missionaries ever did in South Africa. If a native had to look after his family more—clothe and feed them—he would find the necessity of labour. These are points which I wish to emphasise, viz.: that the native as a farmer is a failure, and the land owned by natives is not a national asset.

Mr. J. W. CROSS, J.P. (late Magistrate, Dundee Division).] Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am a Justice of the Peace for the Province of Natal, ex-magistrate of 26 years' standing and 39 in the Service. During that period I have been stationed in all parts of the Province—east, west, north and south. I am sorry to see by the notice here, which I did not read until I came in this morning, that the scope of your enquiry does not go into evidence which I should have liked to have lead before you, and that is to take the Bill clause by clause and point out to you its defects, the injustice it will be not only to Europeans but also to the natives, and especially to the latter. The hardships suffered by the Children of Israel in Egypt will be a fool if this Bill passes.

As regards the natives in the Union, you are precluded from taking that evidence, therefore I speak as one of the magistrates criticised by my friend, Mr. Stein. I hope you will allow me to make a little explanation: As magistrate of Dundee Division I was called upon by the Government to send in a report as to what areas in this division I recommended should be set apart for natives. I understood that I was bound to make a sub-division of this division and map out land most suitable, or rather land which would be best put apart for natives. At the time I fully expected that the Commission which had been appointed to go into this matter would themselves visit the portions of the division which I had recommended. I also understood that if there was any expropriation of land the Government would fully compensate the Europeans whose farms were taken away from them. Unfortunately, I was from home when that Commission visited this division, hence a great deal of misunderstanding and a great deal of abuse levelled against me by those who were opposed to the Buffalo Flats being set apart as a native location.

It is true I did not consult the persons interested, because I knew they would naturally object to their farms falling into a native area, and I was not instructed by the Government to do so. I took the map and, bearing in mind that a number of farms on the Buffalo Flats had been purchased by natives, I naturally said: "Well, the best place to put a location must be the corner where natives already own land," and that applied to the lower end of the division also.

Notwithstanding that the Commission never visited either of these places; my recommendation was not carried out in its entirety, either on the Buffalo Flats or down by Job's Kop.

If you ask my private opinion whether that area on the Buffalo Flats is suitable for a native location, I should certainly say "No," because it is in a mineral district, and I do not think it would be right to lock up that land, which is coal-bearing, in a native location. I therefore, as a private individual, would say: "Don't be guided by my official report. I was simply carrying out instructions and this is the result."

As a colonist of long standing, I totally disapprove of this Bill. We do not want it in this Province: it is neither good for Europeans nor natives, and it is simply an element of disturbing the native mind unnecessarily. The lands that have been set apart in some other parts of the Province, especially along the Berg—that land, gentlemen, I need not tell you is not fit for a single native to occupy: it is simply stock land.

The Chairman.] We know that, Mr. Cross.

Mr. Cross.] Therefore, that recommendation of the Lands Commission is utterly absurd. I do consider that lands should be set apart for natives, and for preference, if any expropriation is to take place, it should be alongside of existing locations, such as we have in Umvoti County, in Weenen County, in Ladysmith District, and not in districts where they do not exist at present.

I do not entirely agree with my friend, Mr. Tandy, that the locations are capable of carrying such a large population as he would estimate. I resided for five years at Umhlumbi, and a good deal of the land comprising that location is neither fit for man nor beast, in that it is krantzes and faces of hills where a native could not grow a single mealie. That location also has a great deal of shale land which will not produce, no matter what fertilizer is put on.

I do admit that the locations could carry more natives than they do at present if the Government systematically pointed out to the natives where they were to put their kraals and where they were to cultivate——

Mr. Tandy and others.] How they were to cultivate!

Mr. Cross.] Now we find a man planting his kraal, because his forefathers lived there, on a ridge which is more suitable for grazing than a homestead. Consequently no more natives can come there. Locations should be properly supervised and the natives placed in proper localities.

I do not know, gentlemen, whether you would take cognizance of one point which will entail a great hardship on the natives, and that is the procedure laid down in this Bill as to what is to happen to a Kafir when he is turned off a farm: he has to seek another place, and if he has been a rent-paying native he may not go as a rent-paying tenant on another farm; he must go as a labourer. Then, if he finds someone who will take him on, he has to go to the magistrate and ask for permission to take him on either as a squatter or a labour tenant. The owner of the land has to go to the magistrate and ask for permission, and the magistrate has to consult his two assessors, who have to be appointed under the Bill. Then their recommendation has to go to the Minister for Native Affairs, who perhaps may be in Cape Town or travelling in some other part of the Union. In the meantime, the time that that native has been given to leave his landlord's farm has expired. It is only in the winter that Kafirs can move, because of the thatch grass and wattle, and it is the most suitable time to move—their year generally expires on 30th June.

There is too much centralization in this Bill. It is teeming from A to Z with nothing but impossibilities, and having had to administer law so long in the Province I can point out its defects.

I myself consider the Buffalo Flats more suitable for Europeans than for natives. I only recommended them because I understood I had got to recommend some part of my division and selected the part adjoining native farms. I may say this, however, as regards the native: the late Natal Government thought that by throwing open the Crown lands for purchase to natives it would tend to make them more loyal, *i.e.* they would not then go into rebellion because they owned land.

Mr. Chapman.] Which of the locations in Natal do you consider best lend themselves to the purpose of closer settlement?

Mr. Cross.] You might get some in the Tugela Valley, nearer the river, but a good deal of that is also krantzes and thick dense bush. The best land which you could have for closer settlement is in the Lower Tugela and Mapumulo Divisions; there is more open ground there. In the Alfred County locations there is very rich land and it would admit of closer settlement. That would also apply to the locations in the Lower Umzimkulu Division.

I am here also to represent the Dundee Agricultural Society, to support the delegates who have been sent here to-day to protest against the Bill and to protest against the Buffalo Flats being turned into a native location.

Mr. Tandy.] I would like to correct the feeling that Mr. Cross has got in his brain-box, *i.e.* that any remarks which have been made are personal. They are far from that. Our point is that neither he nor Mr. Giles were capable of judging as to the capability of the lands under discussion and, consequently, were not in a position to say whether they were suitable or otherwise.

The soil there is more or less of a porous nature. The rainfall is copious and there are certain parts which are fairly dry, but water can always be obtained by boring. You will never get the native to bore. The white man will put down his borehole and his pump and he will make a success of it.

By Mr. Chapman.] William Africa was one of the most progressive native farmers I know, and tried to bring up his family well. What happened to them? They all went to the bad. On all those lands about Steenkool Spruit most of the old "Amakolwa" are dead and the sons have not proved a success.

One native I knew, William Africa, was really successful during his lifetime, but when he died everything went. I knew one other native, Nkunya: that man cultivated and manured everything and he reaped beautiful crops, yet he himself, in spite of it could not make a success of it. The reason was want of financial ability. He had the crops: he had better mealies than some of his white neighbours.

Mr. Uys.] I would like to say a word about William Africa. According to my idea he was quite an exception to the ordinary native, because he was as a youngster taken up by white farmers and was brought up all his life with them. He was brought up by Hendrik Potgieter, and if it had not been for the thrashings he regularly received from his baas he would not have been much good.

Mr. Ryley.] With regard to the financial effect which will be felt in our town and district if these lands revert to the natives, I take it that we are here to-day to try and show reasons why those lands should not be included in that schedule, or even why they should. As far as the commercial aspect is concerned in towns like Newcastle and Dundee, it will mean this: the native is not a man who produces wealth from the land. We have evidence and very strong proof of this in the fact that so many speakers have said these men have been 20 years on the ground and they are worse off to-day than when they went on, giving them credit also to the unearned increment which they had advantage of through the increase of the value of the land, so that the attempt to get these lands

occupied by natives has proved, I think, a sad failure as far as these Buffalo Flats are concerned. I think there is no doubt about it, it is not land suitable for native occupation, and I say 20 years of experience has pretty well proved it. These lands require intelligent farming; they require men also who will have a certain amount of financial ability, besides being hard workers, and unless these lands are intelligently worked even white men will be at a loss. These lands are in places very, very poor, but by intelligent working and building up the lands with manure and fertilier, etc., profitable farming can be done by a white man.

The position is this, that if those lands are included in the schedule it will practically mean that—although the Government we are told is not forcing the white man off the land—conditions will make it impossible for them to occupy the land and eventually they will drift into the hands of the natives. We might say quite a considerable amount of revenue comes from these lands to the benefit of our towns, and if that becomes a native area it will mean a huge loss. No white man would bring less than £200, and a native would not bring £10 a year to us. That is a very serious commercial loss to the towns adjoining these areas, and that in itself is, I think, a fair claim on the part of the town that these lands should be left out, and, in fact, that all lands which are in the vicinity of a large white population in towns should be left out of the schedule. I wish to make a particular point of that: the commercial loss as far as the town is concerned.

Mr. Chapman.] Do not you think that in the course of time this would become a white area, if it were left neutral?

Mr. Ryley.] I don't think it would become a black area by the ability of the black man to buy land. It might become a black area because the native might make it so very hard that the whites would have to get out. I am quite convinced in my own mind that in a very few years the land would all be in white hands if it was left as it is.

It would probably be very much harder for the native if he was induced to buy land which he could not retain. He would eventually lose the little money he put in it. The native is not sufficiently advanced to cultivate land properly. I do not think at the present time the natives of our Colony are fit to be land owners in their own interests. The money they put in that land would be taken from them by the lawyers and sharks, as it has been done before. It is only by dint of very careful training and demanding proper obedience of natives that you will ever get them to cultivate land successfully. I do not think myself it would be any kindness to the natives to allow them to be purchasers of land.

By the Chairman.] I agree with the idea of not allowing natives to have any land. It is not a hardship; it is defending them. The only place where they could hold lands, would be in locations where they could be safeguarded.

Mr. Marwick.] Is it possible to get the native to take the same view—that you are acting out of consideration for him?

Mr. Ryley.] I think quite a number of them would do so, but all do not think alike. Ask those who have lost their money on the Flats what they think about it.

By Mr. Chapman.] You think the conditions would be met if Government cut up the locations and gave natives title to a small area?

Mr. Ryley.] Yes, I think that would meet the case so long as they were properly protected so that the parasites could not attack them.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you opposed to any native area being recommended in this district?

Mr. Ryley.] I am opposed to either of those areas being taken into the schedule. I think myself that as a whole the natives have already had their share of Natal.

Mr. Marwick.] What is your alternative suggestion with regard to the farms the natives own at present?

Mr. Ryley.] I would give them an opportunity of selling to the white man as early as possible, or allow them to remain where they are. If they happen to come in a white area allow them to remain: it will only be a matter of time—the white man will have all the land again.

Mr. Marwick.] Does not the recommended neutral area of Sir William Beaumont between the rivers Tugela and Buffalo coincide with what you have in mind?

Mr. Ryley.] The only thing that I can say in reply to that is this: that I am entirely opposed *in toto* to the principle of segregation.

Mr. Marwick.] What have you to say to my suggestion?

Mr. Ryley.] If it becomes neutral it is, I understand, to remain as it is to-day, and I am quite in favour of that. If it means that these lands should be allowed to remain as they are—not to be interfered with, that is as before the 1913 Act—I perfectly agree with it.

Mr. Marwick.] I would like to ask you that question, Mr. Tandy.

Mr. Tandy.] As regards this portion here, I should say leave it as it is, because the position is such that though land is land to-day, force of circumstances will force him to use that land beneficially or the white man will use it and take it away from him.

Mr. Spies.] Yes, I am quite in favour of that.

Mr. Cross.] If I am allowed to answer your question about natives being given tenure in locations, you would find great difficulty in finding natives other than those already in

locations to take up land. They would be afraid on account of superstition and witchcraft; they would be regarded as interlopers and their lives would not be worth living. The tribe look upon that location as belonging to them, and if an outsider comes in he must come under that tribe.

Mr. Marwick.] I understood you to say you were opposed to the Buffalo Flats being recommended as a native area; what is the alternative?

Mr. Cross.] The alternative is to increase the area of the existing locations wherever it is convenient.

Mr. Marwick.] You would be opposed to any native area being recommended for this division.

Mr. Cross.] I would not say that as regards the lower end of the division, because the farms there not already occupied by European farmers which adjoin native farms might be expropriated, or further down in other divisions farms not occupied might be taken.

Mr. Marwick.] Could you give us a concrete suggestion as regards this division?

Mr. Cross.] I would recommend that if possible the area be increased down there, not only in this division but extend to the next division—surely it does not cut through the country mentioned by Mr. Tandy where the alternative line is to go.

Mr. Tandy proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Committee for the patient hearing they had accorded to the assembly, and proceedings then terminated.

Report of Native evidence taken in Magistrate's Court, Dundee, during afternoon of November 2nd, 1917.

Revd. SEBASTIAN MSIMANG.] Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I have to speak first on behalf of the chiefs in this division, and at the onset I want to say that most of the natives in this division are feeling very nervous about speaking on these points before the Commission in case what they said would be misinterpreted to mean to say that they like the Bill before the House. Although they might have something to say on the point of suitability or otherwise of the lands put down for native areas, yet they are feeling afraid that it might mean that they like the law. Therefore, the first thing they said to me when we met was that I was to record their absolute opposition to the Bill which is before the House. Rather than have any change they think Government would do them a better turn by leaving the native question or problem, as you call it, severely alone. That is what the chiefs have said to me, Mr. Chairman, and on going a little closer into the question they have certain objections. They have reasons for their objections to this law bearing on the points which are before the Commission.

As to the suitability of the land, they have nothing to say against it. The chiefs in this division have no locations. They are either living on their own private farms or on European farms. They have nothing much to say against this, as they see nothing better which they could get from the Bill before the House, and so I think you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, to pass on to the next question—as to the adequacy of the land. There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that the land demarcated for native areas is far from being enough. One can scarcely think that the very word "sufficient," or otherwise, could be applied. For instance, these farms which are said to be demarcated for native areas are mostly private farms owned by natives and their freehold properties, so that they could do as they liked with them. If they do not want to take any more natives on to their holdings I understand, unless I am wrong, they have perfect right to refuse anyone. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, natives generally bought farms in syndicates. On some farms there are 20 owners, on others more. When those farms so acquired are being divided it comes to average about 40 acres for about each native. That means that each of the shareholders can easily plant his share. Without making allowance for children and the next generation it means that even those who have got private farms still need land upon which to increase in ten years to come. There are some 10 farms between Newcastle and Waschbank which belong to the natives and have not been included in a native area.

The land occupied by the natives is far from being enough, and when one begins to look at the land which has been suggested to be a European area we find from Newcastle to Waschbank and Wessel's Nek there are about 15 farms which are in the European area but belong to natives. There is "Crane Valley," "Loch Lomond," "River Bank," "East Heslerton," "West Heslerton," "Wykeham," "Steen Coal Spruit," and others which belong to natives and they are left in the European area, so that instead of speaking of sufficiency say that a lot of land which should remain in native area has been left in the European area. I see no reason, Mr. Chairman, why—as these farms are all in one row extending from Ingagane to Wessel's Nek—the original Commission did not leave or recommend those farms to remain in the native area.

The Chairman.] You understand that although a native farm is in a European area the owner is not compelled to sell?

S. Msimang.] I understand, Mr. Chairman. It shuts one out from thinking that anything which has been done by any subsequent provision which shall be made to supplement the lands which have been put down for native area is far from being sufficient. I cannot suggest as to what should be done except merely pointing it out to you. I understood there were great restrictions as to the way in which the native has to remain in the European area or on his property, for instance—his relatives cannot come and live by his side and any people dependent upon him could not come and live with him. (Mr. Marwick explains the provisions of the Bill in this connection.)

I wanted to say here that the average extent of planting of half-civilized natives is increasing, and as soon as natives begin to acquire land you will find the very same natives who did not plant enough in their former condition, planting as much as three or four times more land than they did when they were living on farms.

It would be a wise thing and a good provision for the future if the Government reserved certain parts of the country—some reserved for Europeans and some reserved for natives, as a provision for the future increase, so that in some future generations natives who wanted to buy land would be able to apply to the Minister for Native Affairs (of course through the proper quarters) and ask that land be thrown open for sale. Therefore I think I must be brief now, Sir, and just say this would be good for heathen natives and for Christian natives.

I want to speak again just from the missionary point of view. We, as ministers, believe that if you want to make a man any better you have to go near him, and this separation of natives from Europeans will just act in the opposite direction. One finds that natives living in locations are very much behind natives living on their private farms and in mission stations. Therefore we would say, Sir, that anything going against the living together of European and native is against civilization.

Mr. Chapman.] You said there were about 15 farms or more in the European area. How many are actually paid for and owned by the natives themselves?

S. Msimang.] I am afraid I cannot answer that question. I could only say that I think part of the duty of the Government is to protect the native: to show them the proper way to farm and to protect them from having their farms taken away by lawyers.

Mr. Chapman.] Of the native farms in this recommended area do you know any which are actually paid for?

PHILIP NGWENYA.] I can name some farms which have been fully paid for: "Klip Rots," "Mt. Johanna," "Verdriet," "Hill Top," "Annie Vale," "Nellie Vale" ("Annie" and "Nellie" on map). "Greenock," "Cloneen," "Kilkeel"—I know nine of those farms which have been paid for.

Mr. Chapman.] Paid in full and freehold titles held

P. Ngwenya.] Yes, we are quite sure they hold the titles of those farms, also "Peach Hill," "Banff," "Clifton," and "Cupar"—that makes 13.

Mr. Chapman.] How many farms were first bought in that area?

P. Ngwenya.] Thirty-six, I think.

Mr. Chapman.] Those farms were bought at 10s. an acre and yet they have not been able to pay for them yet. You tell us now that they are anxious to buy more land. I want you to understand that and look at it from this point of view: if they could not buy land at 10s. an acre and pay for it how can they do so at perhaps £2 an acre? I am asking you that question, do you think they can pay for it?

S. Msimang.] They can pay for it if they are allowed to buy it in syndicates.

Mr. Chapman.] You said just now that provision must be made for the future increase of the black race. Now where would you suggest that land could come from? Do you know of any Crown Lands? It would have to be bought from Europeans and that would cost a lot of money. It is not as if the times of 20 or 30 years ago apply to-day.

S. Msimang.] When one considers that laws which have been made are mostly made to shut out the native from buying any land at all. Most of the lands in the Klip River Division were bought privately from Europeans. Many Europeans would like to sell land to natives now, but they are debarred from doing so.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it not a fact that nearly all those natives owning farms in this recommended area and also those at present in the European area at present, practically all of them, draw rents from native tenants? Is it not a fact?

S. Msimang.] I cannot say all—some of them, a lot of them, do. I do not know what the rents are, but the highest I have heard of is £3 a hut.

By Mr. Marwick.] The suggestion that was made by Sir William Beaumont that the area included between the Rivers Tugela and Buffalo is one that in my opinion would satisfy the natives.

EZRA MSIMANG (from the "Driefontein" Settlement, Ladysmith Division).] We at Driefontein saw the first Commission there and they showed us a map with the native areas marked thereon. We found that what was said to be a native area only included those private farms which are bought by natives already, and some of the private farms owned by the natives were left out. We disliked that, Mr. Chairman, and we wanted to

know what land was added to our private lands in the native area. They said there was none except those farms which were owned by natives. It was only a part of Mr. Koos Kriel's farm which was added, and we complained about that and said it would have been far better if our boundaries had been the railway line as far as the Sunday's River to the Berg, and the same thing on the other side along the Free State railway line to the Berg. By so doing we said the Government would have included all private lands that had then been bought by natives within our division. We said that the Berg included within that area was the land where we always send our horses during horsesickness season. We pointed out to the Commission that those farms were bought by our grandfathers and their sons and grandsons found the land was hardly enough for them; they were crowded. We said that if the Government had no way of letting us have those farms included could not they make some arrangement whereby we could buy or lease some land within the areas. We thought if the Government would have sympathy with us in that direction we would be better situated.

Mr. Chapman.] I think the last witness is not quite clear with regard to the first Committee. When Mr. Evans and myself came out to Driefontein we were appointed to enquire into the recommendations of Sir William Beaumont's Commission—the original one. We were appointed to obtain still further information for the use of the Government, but unfortunately owing to Mr. Evans' illness we were unable to report, and the Government decided that they desired still further evidence with regard to those areas before this Bill became law, so they appointed the present Committee to gain that information. The suggestion made to us by the deputation at Driefontein was that a block of farms should be taken right to the Berg, joining from the northern point of the present recommended area and added thereto. That was the request made to us at the time we were at Driefontein. Now, since that time, the Driefontein people have sent in a written request to the Government urging that all this land from the Sunday's River and the Free State railway line to the Berg should be a native area. I want to make it clear that we have the evidence here that was given us at Driefontein last time, and that will be taken into consideration when we have finished our labours on the present Committee.

By Mr. Marwick.] The neutral area suggested by Sir William Beaumont would have satisfied us. When we referred to that area included within the boundaries named we were only speaking for ourselves, not for all the people north of the Tugela. The suggestion of Sir William Beaumont would satisfy us far more.

WILLIAM W. MTIMKULU (speaking in place of Benjamin Kunene).] Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am very thankful to have the chance to stand before you to-day, and shall speak briefly in order to finish quickly. Of course, I am young, but you will excuse me for that. You will remember that some of us were here before the last Committee and that we declared we did not like this Bill. Naturally we expected to hear what the reply to our evidence would be, but we just get another Committee asking fresh questions, so we have to reply to these questions before us.

I say that the land is very small, even if the farms on the other side which are left out were included; even then it would still be very small. What makes us feel unhappy is because the liberty to buy land has been taken away from us. We thought the Government would sympathise with us and abolish this Bill, but when we say anything we do not get any reply; we simply get another question. (The major portion of Mtimkulu's remarks have not been transcribed, being irrelevant and valueless.)

PHILIP NGWENYA.] Mr. Chairman, I am not going to say much, as the minister has spoken for us, but I want to speak on certain points in the Bill. I said something last time which, I understand, is still before the Committee. In this law we cannot say: "This is good and that is bad." Those farms which are in the native area in Dundee Division are only farms which have been bought by natives and some of them have been paid for in full. Those are the farms which it is said are to be given to natives. When you consider Dundee Division, leaving out Newcastle, there is only a very little land added, *i.e.* European farms included. Another thing—there are no locations in this division, only private lands and European farms. Our chiefs present here are living either on their private lands or on European farms, and therefore we cannot stop saying something on the Bill when it is brought before us. It did not harm us at all to live as we lived before; we were well pleased to be given the opportunity of buying land wherever we wished to, either from Government or private people, and live together with Europeans. It would please us greatly if the recommendation of Sir William Beaumont had been carried out; that in such places as Dundee the operation of the law be suspended and let things continue as they were before. So we cannot say the law is good or bad. We are moved to condemn the Bill, inasmuch as it separates us from the Europeans. We have always lived with Europeans and it has helped us and pleased us a great deal. Our people living on locations cannot be compared at all with those who are living with Europeans. Ever since this Bill was introduced it has made us sick, because we do not know what moved the Government to separate us from Europeans. Some of our chiefs do not own any property, and at a meeting we had with chiefs they said they wanted us to remain as we did before. They said they did not want anything, either great or small; they wanted to live as they did before.

Mr. Chapman.] Is the witness a land-owner?

P. Ngwenya.] Yes, I hold shares in three places—"Verdriet," "Longlands" and "Greenock." No, none of these farms are bonded; we have the title deeds. There were some native tenants, but they have gone now. We, the company, work these farms ourselves. There are 32 natives in "Verdriet," 35 in "Longlands," 21 in "Greenock." There are some of the owners who do sub-let.

Mr. Chapman.] Are there very many residents on those three farms?

P. Ngwenya.] Yes, there are many; the farms are full.

Mr. Chapman.] Do they fertilize the land?

P. Ngwenya.] They fertilize the lands which need it. We use manufactured fertilizer and cattle manure. Some get very fair crops, but I cannot say all, because some are not able to buy fertilizer. Some of them do get a surplus of crops.

CHIEF MBANGO.] I have little to say. The last speakers have said all there is to say. I want to say that the Bill is bad as a whole. It would displease us to be separated from Europeans, because we see no reason which moved Government to take such action. What surprises us is that when we send our complaints to the Government the Government does not send any reply to those complaints. We see that all we say comes to nothing, perhaps, in the end. What I heard about Sir William Beaumont recommending that natives and Europeans be left together in these northern districts would be a very pleasing thing. I second all that has been said.

My farm is "Boschhoek."

CHIEF E. GULA.] We are feeling very unhappy to-day. Our former mode of living was very nice, but when these new changes came they troubled us, because the former state of things was very pleasant and we had no complaints. If we were able we would stop all these innovations, because we do not know what will follow. There may be good results or there may be bad results, but whether good or bad we do not like what is coming on; we are troubled about it. We only pray that these new things be stopped, and pray again and again before the Committee. What wrong have we done? I say we do not want any change from the present. I do not want to hear even about the matter of making of the boundaries. These things may bring even worse results. I am thankful that we have been called before the Committee, but I am leaving my lamentations here.

CHIEF MACALENI.] Mr. Chairman, I am surprised that it was only Sir Theophilus Shepstone who made locations for native chiefs. I wonder why it was there were no locations afterwards. We live in great trouble on the farms. You have to wander for ten days before you get another place to live on. It would be a good thing if the Government has no land to give to the present chiefs if it would give them farms where they could live with their people. I want to say that as far as I personally am concerned the farmer who is my master does not trouble me in any way and I am living comfortably, but he won't take any of my people who wish to live with me, and they have to reside elsewhere. It would be a good thing if Government allowed us to buy land belonging to certain farmers. Then we could live with our people.

Corv.

Mr. W. T. HESLOP moved:

"That this public meeting of farmers, land-owners and other interested residents of the Northern Districts of Natal dissents very strongly from the recommendations of the Native Land Commission, 1916, and is of opinion that no further land in Natal should be added to the existing Natal reserved areas. It protests more particularly against the inclusion of the whole of Areas No. 4, known as the Buffalo Flats, and the additional lands in No. 3 Area of the Helpmakaar and Nquiu Districts."

Seconded by Mr. D. W. H. Tandy and carried unanimously.

(Sgd.) J. DYSON, Chairman.

Mr. J. CROOK, of Newcastle, moved the next resolution, as follows:

"That this meeting strongly protests against the provisions of the Bill to carry out the recommendations of the Natives' Land Commission as legislation of a retrograde character, constituting the Governor-General the legislator and is not in the interests of the Europeans or of the natives."

Seconded by Mr. A. Garstang and carried unanimously.

(Sgd.) J. DYSON, Chairman.

Mr. HARRY RYLEY then proposed that a copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting be submitted to the Commission and that certain persons to be hereafter chosen be asked to attend before the Commission to give evidence to support the resolutions.

Carried.

(Sgd.) J. DYSON, Chairman.

Copy.

Talana, Natal,
November 2nd, 1917.

The Commissioners,
Natives' Land Act.

Gentlemen,

I came to Africa 12 years ago as a medical missioner. In the last six years I held the capacity of officer in charge of hospital where Indians and natives are treated. In addition I have for the last few years been breeding pure stock.

Judging from experience and viewing the matter from a material interest point of view, more so dwelling upon the future, *it is absolutely essential that the Act should be passed.*

The main reasons, in my opinion, why the Act should pass are the following:—

(1) To secure absolute supervision over the natives.
(2) The prevention of mixing of races in as much as habits and methods of living are concerned. The native existence is some 500 years behind the European, therefore by adopting the European habits and methods of living he becomes degenerated, because he lacks physical and moral power of control to the extent the European's capabilities are.
(3) The passing of the Act will revive among the natives codes of morals and better conceptions of what they are in sight of, civilization.
(4) The passing of the Act will place the natives under supervision regarding the two universal plagues of the present day, phthisis and syphilis, which is rapidly increasing among the natives owing to lack of hygienic conditions and supervision.
(5) The passing of the Act will control the labour market, for the native confined to his location, if he possess progressive views, will naturally seek employment. Therefore that native will be directly under supervision of his employer.
(6) The passing of the Act will do away with the general outcry of stealing stock, etc., from farmers.

Therefore, gentlemen, as a summary: though the passing of the Act will touch a few people, such as native traders and those who also possess labour farms, those concerned, though few, should bend to the principle at issue. In my candid opinion unless the Government controls the native question to-day the future of South Africa will be so degraded, moral and physically, that no self-respecting person will care to live where stealing, immorality, diseases, etc., are spreading.

Yours, gentlemen,

(Signed) J. W. HARLECH JONES.

Report of evidence taken at Vryheid, Natal, in the Magistrate's Court-Room, on 5th November, 1917.

Mr. G. BRIDSON (President of the Vryheid Agricultural Society).] I must first explain that we are here as a deputation of the Agricultural Society. We have been led to understand that your Committee is, as it were, a Court of Appeal where we could appeal against any demarcation which we consider unjust.

I think you will agree with us that this district has been hardly treated. Because of the way in which the original Commission has mixed these reports I do not suppose you are aware how much they demarcated. The total acreage is 675,257 acres, which means about 200 farms.

In order to impress upon you the hard way in which we have been treated I want to compare this district with some other districts. I have not chosen them because they are extremes, but because they are the only districts which have been taken alone, viz.: Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg, Lower Umzimkulu and Inanda. I have the details of each district, but I won't go into these; they show that out of a total population of 113,000 these districts supply land for 20,000, that is about 16 per cent. In Vryheid Division the native population is 64,000, and they have set aside sufficient land in the native area for 72,000, so the position is reversed. We should have to import another 8,000 natives. I have taken 4·5 morgen per head as the amount of land necessary to support a native, which appears to be the amount the original Commission worked on.

There is another matter I want to touch upon—that is the desire of natives to acquire land. In this district there is one native-owned farm only; that is the case, and I would like to remind you of Sir William Beaumont's Minority Report, in which he recommends that certain areas should be European areas.

The Chairman.] Neutral areas?

Mr. Bridson.] No, Sir, if you will allow me, I think that should be "European" area. He gives as his reason that if you look at the map you will find there are very few native-owned farms—only 1 per cent. In this district the percentage is ·005, which you will agree is quite negligible.

Therefore we would ask that not only Vryheid but Ngotshe should be declared European area, but I quite recognise that you may not agree with our views, however carefully considered they may be, and I suggest that if you cannot finally declare it European area you will at least recommend it may be a neutral area. I am quite convinced you will find no natives will buy land here in this district. I ask that whatever you do you will at least declare this a neutral area and then time will prove whether our estimate is correct or not.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you recognise that there is considerable difference between the suggested European area in Sir William Beaumont's report and the conditions here? The European area he speaks of has very large native areas in it already set apart for the use of natives, and they, I take it, would have to be recognised as native areas. There are no native areas in this district.

Mr. Bridson.] On the other side of the border there is sufficient land to take all the natives in this division. The land there works out at $12\frac{3}{4}$ morgen per head. I am speaking of the territory immediately across the border; I am speaking of the recommended areas there in Zululand.

Mr. Marwick.] Assume that the Saunders-Dartnell Report is adhered to?

Mr. Bridson.] In that case we think that the only use which could be made of the lands in this division would be to accommodate natives from Zululand, because the desire of the natives here to acquire land is practically non-existent. Ten years ago land was selling at 10s., 5s. and 2s. 6d. an acre, and there was then no demand on the part of the natives to buy land at that price. If the land has to be occupied there must be an influx of natives from other districts.

By Mr. Chapman.] The farms are not beneficially occupied all the twelve months round, but the majority are put to good use for sheep grazing. I cannot say whether they go down with sheep towards the Umfolozis.

By Mr. Marwick.] Our case really is that in the abstract we have no objection to natives acquiring land in this district, but we are convinced, and not convinced without due thought, that this land will never be occupied by natives. The natives in this district do not want it, and we feel that if such a large area were set apart for a native area and tied up it would be a very great drawback—it would depreciate the value of the land, by the conditions of sale and by the whole Act, you might say.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think that if the Government was to expropriate a great deal of the opposition would disappear; that, of course, if they expropriate at market value. Our trouble is that they are not bound to do it.

Mr. Marwick.] Was it not part of Her Majesty's Government to provide native areas for all the important tribes in Zululand before Zululand was allowed to be annexed to Natal?

Mr. Bridson.] I believe that is a matter of history, Sir.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there not some ground for complaint that the natives in this district, many of whom were equally important, such as Masipula's tribe and Mnyamana's tribe, were not similarly provided for?

Mr. Bridson.] That I am not in a position to speak of, but I should imagine that if we recognise claims of the tribes in this district we should have to go throughout the whole of Natal. There is Sivepu's tribe living on a private farm near Ennersdale which they bought, and so on. Yes, Sivepu was the son of Langalibalele. I should say the majority of the Zulus should have their land taken away for the same reason that they went into rebellion.

On the same argument I believe that they had no land taken away from them for that reason—I mean Sigananda's tribe—and therefore Sivepu's people should be equally leniently treated.

Mr. Marwick.] I think it is admitted but for the annexation of this part of the country by the New Republic the requirements of these people would have been recognised?

Mr. Bridson.] Yes, Sir. At the same time we think that the present owner, the European owner, should be recognised too. He is at the present time the legal owner of these farms. I think the position here is that natives do not wish to acquire land here, and that has been amply proved in the past.

By the Chairman.] I submit that if they made no attempt to buy land when it was 2s. 6d. an acre they will not be willing to do so later. The native who may buy land at £10 an acre is not the same class of man that we have here.

By Mr. Chapman.] Our suggestion was to ask you to declare this area a neutral area and let time prove whether the natives would buy that land or not.

There would be no objection if the Government bought the land. The great objection is to it being tied up for years and years.

Natives are leaving farms on which they are squatting and paying rent and are going on to farms and giving labour. In a great majority of cases sooner than leave where they

are they will do that. I know the old men and kraal heads want to render service, but the young men object to it.

Mr. S. E. HENWOOD.] We gave our evidence on behalf of the Agricultural Society at the last sitting of the Committee. I do not think we have anything further to add, unless there are points upon which you wish to get information. As representing the Society we all agreed that the evidence which was given at the last sitting represents the views of the Society in regard to this matter.

Mr. H. A. GUY.] Mr. Chairman, I was one of the members deputed by the Vryheid Agricultural Society, and really there is very little to add to what the President, Mr. Bridson, has already given. The point I do feel strongly about is this, and that is the amount of assumption that you have to work on. A member of your Committee, Mr. Chapman, said: "It is assumed that a number of natives, owing to the definition of servant and tenant and so forth, will prefer to leave the farms rather than remain under the conditions provided by this Act": but that is assumption. Why penalise these people by including their farms in a native area when it may be a matter of 100 years without any call by the natives for land.

I think, gentlemen, you will admit it is disaster to a man who owns a farm in this area that it is suggested should be cut off unless it is going to be that the natives are going to come forward and endeavour to purchase farms in that vicinity. One's commonsense and reasoning tells us so. There again it is only assumption that there will be any demand for many, many years to come, and in the meantime you lock that land up and nobody can do anything with it. They cannot raise money on it or sell to other Europeans, and you have to wait until the natives become sufficiently educated to purchase the farms. As Mr. Bridson said, if they cannot buy at 2s. 6d. how will they buy at 10s. or £1 an acre. Take the Dundee District; I do not know what they paid there, perhaps £4 or more, but it is a well-known fact that many bonds have been foreclosed, showing that these people went far too rapidly. That will probably put them back another 20 or 30 years, perhaps.

In regard to Mr. Marwick's point, it seems that if the British Government at the time they sanctioned the taking over of this ground by the New Republic did not make provision for the natives, it is rather hard to say that at the eleventh hour we have to make up for the misdeeds or forgetfulness of the British Government, because many of those farms have changed hands. You may or you may not be penalising men who came here in 1884, but you say: "It is up to us now to provide this area because the British Government neglected to do it."

One point that the Dutch farmers, I think, if they realised it would feel as a hardship is that you know the Dutch farmer leaves his property to his children in undivided shares. Now, we will say that the farm is not large enough to give each child a piece of ground sufficiently large on which to make a living; he may not under this Act buy out the other heirs and get sufficient ground to make a reasonable sized farm. That is a hardship which I think the Dutch farmers have hardly, perhaps, realised yet.

It does seem to me that the wisest proposition would be to make a neutral area and then, if the native did come, you would know where you are.

By Mr. Marwick.] I have not been over the area personally. I believe it is largely used as native farms. I think it would be better to make it a neutral area. They are not native-owned areas, although they may be largely occupied by natives.

I think that the farmer would prefer that it should be a European area rather than a native area, even if the Act provides him with the use of it. To some extent the Act seems to be made with the idea of getting the natives to work as far as possible; might it not be that the farmer who was not entitled to let to natives might induce the natives to work? I think he would rather take that risk.

I think it would be better for it to be excluded from a native area. If I may say so, it is experimental legislation.

Mr. G. L. KOSTER.] Are the natives to buy the land? (He is given an explanation.) The natives have never utilised the privilege of buying land, barring two that I know of: how on earth are they going to buy it now? There was one instance in Harrismith District where a native bought a farm and paid £100 on it and then had to give it up.

Mr. J. WIGGETT, Senr.] I have put my evidence in writing. I know those lands I refer to from personal knowledge over many years. I do not believe you would find a dozen kraals in that area I mention (between rivers Mkuzi and Pongolo) now because the rainfall is so uncertain in the summer that the natives do not care to go there. It is the richest soil we have in this part of South Africa. It is a splendid basin and merely wants the water supply diverged from the Mkuzi and Pongolo. There is room for hundreds of Europeans there.

I wish to be as short as I possibly can. When this place became what was known as the New Republic I came here on 1st July, 1885, and occupied my farm. I was the first of the field-cornets appointed under the New Republican law. I had to control what is known now as the whole of the Ngotshe District and a fairly large slice of what is known as the Magisterial Division of Vryheid as Sub-Commissioner, gathering taxes, administering justice, etc., and that brought me to understand the position between the different

tribes. They would not intermingle and marry under any circumstances; it was merely due to the fact that Europeans were settling in the country and that averted further bloodshed. Now, I believe, those old feuds are still there, but they are dormant because they are under the control of the white population, but if they were removed to large native areas the old state of affairs would come to pass again, and the country would have a much worste state of affairs than we had in 1884.

By Mr. Chapman.] It has been proved in the last 24 months that you can run sheep right down in the thorns and close down to Magut. Undoubtedly you can run sheep in that recommended area in the winter. There is a tendency on the part of the farmer to take sheep lower down in the low veld because they now realise it is safe to do so. Before, it was very unsafe to take sheep down; formerly we would not take sheep more than 25 miles from the township of Vryheid.

I consider that (the Ngotshe low veld) is the best part of South Africa for cattle. They do exceptionally well there winter and summer. I must inform the Commission that in May, 1892, I was out on an inspection in Swaziland and I saw cattle in what was termed the Lebombo and the Rooi Rand. I was surprised and expressed my surprise to people that I met there at the clean state the cattle were in—absolutely free from all ticks. If you came up in the high veld you were covered with them, but in the low country they were in splendid condition and practically tick free.

The fact that the farms have not been utilized much is due to the fact that they are owned by people who have farms in the Wakkerstroom, Vrede, Utrecht and elsewhere. They simply utilize those farms as winter grazing for their cattle and as a source of labour. They do not come down with their sheep at present, but they will do that.

(Note.—Copy of Mr. Wiggett's written evidence attached.)

Mr. Henwood.] There are a few words we wish to add on behalf of the Agricultural Society: we hope that you will not see the necessity to recommend any areas in the Vryheid District, but in case you do we feel there are some farms which are at present recommended which under no circumstances should be included in native areas, for instance—there are all the farms at the Ngomi and down towards the Nhlazatshe which at present are mostly occupied by Europeans and are well improved. In the case of Ngomi neighbourhood the land there is very valuable both for agriculture and for stock, also for sheep. The farms down towards the Nhlazatshe are also very suitable for sheep grazing and practically the whole of them are used for that purpose nowadays. Then we feel with regard to the portion on the other side of Louwsburg Township that that line should be drawn back so as to omit farms such as "Dhlomadhloma" and "Langewacht" and other farms. I should estimate the area about three farms deep. All that land is being used at the present time for sheep grazing, and we think that it would be a misfortune for the district if it were recommended for a native area.

By Mr. Chapman.] I refer to the strip in the Vryheid District, that is from what is known as the Ngomi and the Nhlazatshe, adjoining the reserve in Mahlabatini. We think that all that area should be excluded, and then we think with regard to the Ngotshe area the line should be thrown back.

Mr. I. M. VAN ROOYEN.] I am the owner of the farm "Sterkspruit" in the recommended native area. I have been residing on this farm a long time. It is almost fenced and I have improved it to a great extent. I have erected a building of brick and also one of stone. Nearly all my lands are under irrigation, and I cannot see my way to leave the farm and to do the same improvements on another place, as I am old and cannot do the work again. That is the reason I am opposed to my farm being included in the native area. I will allow no native to come and pick on my farm without my permission. I have nothing further to say beyond that I do not see my way to give up this farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] All around me there are European farmers. They reside from my farm right up to Inhlazatshe and to Vryheid; in the opposite direction brings you into the thorns. It is thickly populated from my farm to Inhlazatshe way. It is good for cattle and sheep grazing and for agriculture. Some of my relations have died and are buried there, and I do not see any means of taking them up again. That is the only farm I own. I reside there with my two sons; they have no other farms either. I have lived there since 1887.

I value the brick building at about £500, the stone building at £200, then the camps, fencing, and lands which I have brought under irrigation bring the total to roughly £940.

Other farms in the neighbourhood are improved to the same extent—every one of them. On one of the farms in the vicinity, five buildings have been erected.

Mr. Bridson.] Regarding supplying land for native tribes, I would like to point out that originally the Dutch took land right down to the sea-board, to St. Lucia Bay, and the British Government then intervened and said: "You must go back to the present line, which we will recognise," and we submit that the British Government in insisting on the New Republic coming back to that line did so with the intention of giving land to the natives who were then in occupation of this portion of Zululand.

Mr. J. A. ECKSTEEN.] My farm "Weltevreden," also falls in the portion which was cut off for native occupation. The farm is owned by my two step-children, Craigs, and has been occupied for about 32 years. It is well planted with trees and a building has

been erected. The farm is healthy and is good for cattle, sheep and horses. There is high veld for grazing horses in summer. This farm is the boundary farm between Ngotshe and Vryheid, near to Ceza.

My other farm, "Nooitgedacht," I purchased from Mr. Potgieter. It is also well planted; I have many trees on it. There are two buildings and it is good for cattle. Then I have another piece, which is in the Ngotshe Division in the recommended area, called "Wonderfontein." It is only 780 acres, but there are 260 acres of black wattle on that farm and the oldest trees are now eight years old. There is also a building on that farm and it is healthy for cattle. I do not see where I could get another portion just as good as the farm where I reside at present.

I do not see why the natives should get that land, because they won't cultivate it. When the natives reside with a farmer they reap more mealies than when they reside by themselves.

By Mr. Chapman.] There was a European on the farm "Nooitgedacht," but he has gone now; I intend to get another European to reside on it. This farm and "Weltevreden" and two adjoining farms; we reside on the latter, but our sheep and cattle graze on "Nooitgedacht." The buildings on the two farms are about two miles apart. About half of the farm "Weltevreden" is fenced. This farm and the one in the Ngotshe Division do not adjoin; they are about 150 yards apart in the boundaries. I have only one native on the farm; he looks after some of my cattle.

Mr. Henwood.] I wish to draw your attention to the evidence I gave before the Commission regarding the native township at Vryheid East and to ask you to recommend it as a native area. The position is very much the same, and I think you will agree with the principle. It is recognised in Durban that to segregate the natives working in the town as far as possible is desirable. It is within a very reasonable distance of this town, and nearly all the natives who own land there to-day are labourers in this town. I think it would be wise to have that set apart as a native township and proclaimed as such. There are several natives in the town who are owners of land there, one in particular, an educated native, who would be willing to give evidence. There are very few Europeans in that part. There has been no alteration to the figures I gave. It is quite near to the town.

By Mr. Marwick.] I think the nearest point is four miles. Some of the natives walk; some come on bicycles; some ride. There is no station there at present, but the railway comes very close to it. There is no restriction as regards sale at present.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think it would be an advantage to the town to have this native township, working on the same principle that Durban has recognised.

By Mr. Marwick.] There was one objector, I think a Mr. Foord, but I think his only objection was on account of the outlook—it would not be very nice to have natives in front of him.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I think we would wish this township to come under municipal control. I think there is provision under a certain Act where the bye-laws can be extended to operate within a three-mile radius of the town. I do not think the township is against it; I think they rather favour it.

Mr. J. J. VAN VUUREN.] I own two farms in the division; one belongs to my old mother. They adjoin the Mahlabatini District. I have a good piece of land by the name of "Good Luck" and a portion of "Eensgevonden"; my mother's farm is "Middelpunt," and on this farm there are about five buildings erected, all belonging to the sons of my mother. It is well fenced, good for agriculture and also for cattle and sheep. I cannot give it up under any circumstances, as I see no other piece of ground which is as good. The portion belonging to my mother is just the same, and all the farms are occupied by Europeans.

The farm "Eensgevonden" is not occupied, but it adjoins my farm "Good Luck": the latter is 433 morgen in extent, the former 150 morgen. "Middelpunt" is 1,100 morgen. I was brought up on that farm ("Middelpunt"). My father resided there when we first came to that part in 1885. There are still children who have not reached the age of 21 yet who have to inherit after my mother's death.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, sheep can run through summer and winter on "Middelpunt." There is a Government school on this farm.

Mr. P. S. GROVE.] I also own a farm in the recommended area called "Success." I know all the people in the vicinity, as I am dipping inspector in that portion. I bought this farm in 1912, and since that time improvements have been made, such as dipping tanks for cattle and sheep, and the farm is partly fenced, also a stone and iron building has been erected. We have always farmed sheep and cattle successfully on that farm, and a good crop of mealies is reaped every year. I won't say there are no better farms than this one, "Success," but to join it to a location lessens the worth of a farm to a European purchaser. It is towards the Inhlazatshe, adjoining "Tweefontein" and "Vrischgewaagd." It is 40 miles out of town. The farm "Success" is the fourth farm from the boundary.

I would make the suggestion that you should exclude the whole of that area coloured pink. All these farms are good farms with the exception of a few in the thorns. The majority of these farms are all good sheep farms and the farmers are trekking down there every winter; some live there in summer time.

By Mr. Marwick.] "Kroonplaats" adjoins the Government ground near the Itaka. "Weltevreden" and "Hollandia" have been let for sheep grazing since 1913. "Grootgeluk" is occupied by Mr. C. J. Labuschagne. He has been there since last winter and is going in for stock and sheep.

Mr. Koster.] The Babanango Division is not so good for grazing sheep. For mealies and cattle it is very good.

I own a portion of the farm "Eensgevonden" in the recommended area, 910 morgen in extent. There is a dwelling-house of six rooms, one wagon-house and a stable. This farm adjoins "Good Luck" and "Uitkyk," near the White Umfolozi.

My farm is fenced on three sides and there are two paddocks. There are about 30 orange trees and 50 apricot and peach trees. There is also a cattle and sheep dip. There are farms which are not occupied, but they are good for stock grazing. There is only a portion down the White Umfolozi which is not suitable for sheep.

My father owns a farm in the Babanango Division—"Dwaarsrivier"; the farm is not too good for sheep in summer, but it is quite all right during winter. There is a small building on this farm, also cattle and sheep dip. At present this farm cannot be sold, as it belongs to heirs who are still under age and one portion belongs to my brother who is in the Argentine.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is about 12 miles from Denny Dalton. Not including my own labour I spent £250 in improvements in four years' time.

Mr. B. G. BRECHER.] We are still of the same opinion that no ground should be taken from Vryheid and that we should get the Nqutu Reserve, because the principle is wrong that natives should live between whites. As I said before, it (the Nqutu) is a back door that natives have, because we find out that you can prove thefts right up to the border.

Geographically speaking, the Nqutu Division should belong to the district of either Vryheid or Utrecht, and it should not be a native reserve. We object to give up any land from the Vryheid District, but if we get the Nqutu and are bound to give something then we do not mind giving from Louwsburg, say, down to the Lebombo in the Ngotshe District.

By Mr. Chapman.] I won't say the whole of the Nqutu Division. I would remove the natives down here.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think there would be an outcry if you did that?

Mr. Brecher.] Well, it cuts both sides. We know what it means to give up ground and perhaps to get other ground or to sell at a loss. For instance, take the New Republic: the ground was surveyed right down to the sea and that was included in the land. With an agreement come to with the New Republic Government and the Governor of Natal we gave up that land, and we got land in the north, which is now the Ngotshe Division. The consequence was that we did not get a fair exchange and people had to take about £300 for 1,700 morgen of land that they lost there. They could not buy land again for £300; it was a loss. So it is if our land is taken away from us. It is difficult to buy the same quantity of land for the amount you get, because we know how land is rising in price. We have experienced the loss.

By Mr. Chapman.] It was a burgher right. The Ngotshe District was not allotted in the district of Vryheid. The land was surveyed from Proviso B. down to the sea. The New Republic Government paid out the compensation. Thefts have been traced to the border of the Nqutu Reserve and then lost. I adhere to my previous evidence and wish all the land recommended in this division to be excluded.

W. W. NDHLOVU (an exempted native).] There is nothing special that I would like to mention save that we think that we might be forgotten or left in the cold if we do not keep on hammering away to every Commission that comes.

I think most of the land which is demarcated as native area is mostly in the thorn country. There is always a shortage of water in the thorns in the summer months, letting alone the fever in those parts, so that the more I think of it the more I am convinced these thorny parts ought to be really European areas. I give my reason for saying this: Europeans have better methods of sanitation and, in fact, drive the fever away. When I was at the coast I was often told that around Verulam there used to be a lot of fever and natives died in the early days, but since the coming of the Europeans fever seems to have been driven away, and that is why I put this argument of mine forward to the Committee that I do not think it is wise to demarcate the low veld only for the native people.

A lot of people die in those areas every year from fever because they cannot help themselves; they do not know the things which will act as preventatives when they acquire malaria when it visits those parts every two years, as the case may be. The water difficulty is also a great drawback.

I quite admit, Sir, that in the early days in all these thorns there were always kraals —the sites are to be found to-day, but I am told that some of those natives were wiped out by malarial disease and others have left through famine.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am speaking generally. Fever is prevalent more especially in the Mkuzi Valley. When I have been round Idhlebe we saw kraal sites and were told that many of the natives have died and the remainder have gone to the high veld.

What are these natives going to do during the times of drought? Sometimes we have bad years. I would very much like to know what the Government is going to do for these natives who are going to be forced down there. (This impression is corrected by the Chairman.) Well, that is the area which is to be set apart for these natives: they must go there if there is no other place to go to.

I do not think that these areas are large enough for the native population. There may be enough, perhaps, from the Government point of view, but I do not think there is provision made sufficiently for the coming generation, and I would very much like to enlist your sympathy with regard to these points I mention. We are increasing, but the coming generation does not appear to be considered by the Government at all.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there any tendency for the rising generation to get to industrial centres more than they used to do?

W. W. *Ndhlovu.*] I think they are forced to it by circumstances. They don't remove with their families to those centres; they leave their families behind. I do not think it is the tendency of young men to take their wives with them: there may be a few who do. There are more natives on the town lands here than there used to be before the 1913 Act came into force. Some of them cannot live on the farms under the labour terms, and they are being driven to places where they can pay rent as a basis of tenancy.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think there is a tendency on the part of natives to revert to pastoral pursuits?

W. W. *Ndhlovu.*] I think so, Sir. Circumstances force the younger generation to go to labour centres. The majority of them do not take their families away. They go to these mining centres with a view to rejoining their kraals and families. That is the tendency as far as my experience goes. I will admit that a number stay there and do not come back, but I do not think we can call them the majority.

I think there ought to be neutral areas. If neutral areas were made they would be free to the open market and natives could buy there. I presume they would be near the markets because there are natives who think it is almost useless to go to the native areas because of their remoteness.

By the Chairman.] I think natives would buy in neutral areas if there were any in this division. I have had many enquiries from natives wanting to buy ground.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think our people are strong enough to buy sufficient land on a basis of 5. I think 300 acres would be quite enough for an energetic native. He could then plough as much land as he wanted and have sufficient ground for his stock.

By the Chairman.] I do not say there is a native who can buy 300 acres, but he could if there were terms offered whereby they could buy on the instalment system.

I think he could beneficially occupy 300 acres. There is Mhlongo; he has a farm of about 600 acres at the Inyati and he beneficially occupies. Yes, I admit he is the only one in the district. He paid for it himself. I think natives would sacrifice their stock to buy land if there were any to be bought around here. They would sooner put their money, that is their stock, into land. Ten acres would not be enough to graze cattle in.

By Mr. Chapman.] I would not say the recommended area is all unsuitable, but some of it is—in the thorns—for the reasons I have already stated. In some places there is no water. We do not get fever every year, but I know from natives who lived there that some years kraals were wiped out. I mean to say natives would not leave the high veld to go there.

Mr. Marwick.] What farms do you refer to when you say some of the thorn farms should be put into European area?

W. W. *Ndhlovu.*] I refer to the farms in the thorns between Mahlabatini and here, but more especially in the Ngotshe along the Mkuzi, farms like "Zeekoe Vlei" and "Boschhoek" (I have been on that farm)—there are hardly any native kraals about there. There has been hardly any malaria in the thorns this year, and most of our people have died in the high veld. I admit that natives born in the thorns do not want to leave, also high veld natives do not want to leave.

By Mr. Chapman.] The natives say why are not native areas marked off in the high veld as well as down there. Our people hate leaving their old sites where their forefathers are buried and go to strange parts.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you see any danger in neutral areas being set apart where natives and Europeans would buy on equal terms?

W. W. *Ndhlovu.*] Let such an area be under the control of the Government and I do not think there would be any danger then. I know cases where natives have had to lose their land, but there are cases where they have not been so foolish as to get behindhand and lose their ground.

By Mr. Chapman.] I would very much like to see the native protected. I think it would be much better if syndicates of 30 were allowed under Government control.

By the Chairman.] If it was divided up they would have to draw tickets or lots for their land.

Copy.

"Bloemhof," P.O. Vryheid,
5th October, 1917.

I wish to state that I consider the native areas Nos. 2 and 3 undesirable in view of the inevitable future of European settlement. My conviction is based on the fact that large tracts of land exist in what is known as the bushveld, and comprise some of the richest arable soil in this part of the Union, only used prior to the late war as winter grazing and a source of labour. The great drawback has been the scarcity of water and danger of malarial fever. By ordinary care the fever danger could be overcome, and a good water supply be provided by using the Pongolo and Mkuzi Rivers, enabling Europeans to settle, cultivate and prosper on what at present is a semi-desert.

The areas I refer to are from the Magutu Hills to the Mkuzi River and across from Rooirand to the Mfengane River. Another area is from the Ubombo to the sea-coast between the Pongolo and Mkuzi Rivers. These vast tracts are very rich soil and are included in the proposed native reserves, and will probably remain uncultivated for many years hence, as the natives are unable to grasp the great agricultural possibilities thereof.

I further wish to say that the natives in this district comprise several tribes who prior to 1884 were living in a state of inter-tribal strife which, I fear, is only dormant, owing to the presence and control of the European population.

I believe it would prove harmful to the natives to remove them to reserves or locations where the old tribal feuds could revive and create a most undesirable state of life.

If permission could be made to segregate each tribe, with sufficient room for future development, it would minimise the, to my mind, undoubted danger. To do this effectually would demand great caution in selecting suitable areas, which should not abut on each other, but have a clear zone between where no natives should be allowed to settle.

I have lived 32 years in this district and am expressing views which are based on my personal knowledge of both the land and its natives.

The tribe of Oham and the followers of Sibepu, as well as the Zulus who were loyal to Cetewayo, are to be found in areas which it is proposed to proclaim as native areas.

(Signed) J. WIGGETT, Sen.

Report of Evidence taken at Paulpietersburg, Natal, on November 7th, 1917.

Present: Mr. D. Adamson, Magistrate, Paulpietersburg, who kindly acted as Dutch interpreter.

Mr. CORNELIUS J. COMBRINK (interpreted).] I own the farm "Doornkop" in the proposed native area in Paulpietersburg Division. I do not know the opinion of others, but as far as I am concerned I cannot see my way clear to have this farm of mine taken as a portion of the native area.—It would be to the detriment of the whole of this population if this area was created a native one. It would be interesting to refer to the Stock Inspector to ascertain what number of stock are depastured in the area during the winter months. If the creation of the area is insisted on it will mean ruination to a good many of us.

The land is not suitable for the purpose; it is too hard and it is stony. You would not be assisting the native if you made that a native area, and we would be ruined in the meantime.

By the Chairman.] I am speaking on my own behalf and on behalf of the public. I lived there three years and had to leave because of the farm being unsuitable. As far as health is concerned it is all right. I left the farm in 1896. I should like to know whether the Government will purchase this land or the individual natives.

The Chairman.] We cannot give a definite reply to that: it is possible that the Government may buy some for a native settlement.

By Mr. Chapman.] During the past years I have hired out my farm for winter grazing of sheep every year. Yes, there are three Crown farms adjoining mine. "Eerstelling" could be occupied, but not the others: they are very hilly. There are not many natives in the vicinity of my farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have five kraals on my farm; they supply labour.

By the Chairman.] The only use I make of the farm is to draw my labour from it and I hire it out for winter grazing. I cannot cultivate it because there are no arable lands. I intend sending my own sheep down next winter, but in the past it has been hired out.

In any case I decline to give up that farm of mine. I hope to become a rich man through that farm, because there are minerals on it.

By Mr. Chapman.] The owners make use of these farms mostly for their own sheep—a few are hired out to others.

No, there are no rent-paying natives as far as I know on those farms.

The Magistrate.] I am in a position to say that practically all tenants render labour, as far as I know.

Mr. Combrink.] They get very poor crops in that part. They should have good crops this season owing to the abundance of rain. It is a dry and rocky area.

Mr. J. P. NORTJÉ.] I can add nothing to what I said at the last meeting of the Committee.

My farm is near the Pivaan, at the same altitude as Vryheid.

By Mr. Marwick.] I had a very poor crop last year and have had to purchase fairly extensively.

I fertilized and worked the ground very well, but the failure of the crop was in the main due to witch-weed.

By the Chairman.] It was a very dry season. The farm is very stony and requires a considerable quantity of rain.

By Mr. Chapman.] I bought "Kleinfontein" about two years ago. This farm is a very good stock farm. I purchased it because it is good for stock. There is a good bit of arable land; I have just broken up 70 or 80 acres. I found that I could not exist on "Schurwerand" and as "Kleinfontein" adjoins it I bought it. It is a healthier farm than "Schurwerand." I still live on the latter farm. We have had cases of malaria amongst the natives ever since the farm was allotted to me. Last year three or four died there.

I am of the same opinion that this year is likely to be a bad year for fever.

Dr. N. LIPSCOMB (District Surgeon, Paulpietersburg).] The top portion of the recommended native area is healthy, but the lower portion is malarious. It is worse some seasons than others. On the Pongolo you will find a fair number of deaths registered some years, but these may not be altogether reliable. Last year the fever went right away up the Pongolo, and I do not think I had a case on the Pivaan. There are ridges, of course, in the lower portion where it is healthy. Taking it on the whole, I would not say it was too unhealthy for natives, but portions in the valleys are.

In the year 1915 there were 304 native births against 220 deaths. The death rate was 16 per thousand; for the previous year it was 9·37, when there were 127 deaths registered and 332 births. This shows the effects of a bad malaria year. The birth rate was 22·1 in 1915 and 24·32 in 1914.

General M. W. MYBURGH, J.P., M.L.A.] I am still of the same opinion as when giving evidence before the Select Committee that this area is unnecessary.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there is a forest area demarcated at Ngomi. There are several farms, I believe, where there is forest, and I do not think those farms should be taken for natives. I think the forest will be more valuable to the white man than to the native in future.

I do not think many natives will be dispossessed, that is provided that they take the term "servant" to apply if a native works for you six months. The Bill is not amended yet; that is the draft Bill. I am against that term as it stands. Of course, it would affect the labour conditions right throughout Natal and the Transvaal. Undoubtedly, I think more natives would leave the farms if they had to work twelve months on end. It would materially change the whole system of labour from time immemorial.

Mr. Chapman.] With regard to squatters, do you think there would be any hardship upon the farmer or native if a licence had to be taken out, his conditions of service registered, etc.?

General Myburgh.] I do not think there would be very great hardship. It is introducing a new system to a certain extent. That term "servant" is wrong, of course. In the Cape you get a coloured man and the custom is that he lives there and he is termed a "servant"; there is no provision made against him. But we will have to change the whole system if a man is only to be called a "servant" when he has worked twelve months for you on end. You cannot do it with a native; it is impossible.

Mr. Chapman.] What are your views with regard to these areas as a whole?

General Myburgh.] I do not like these little pieces dotted about. My main evidence is that there are reserves enough for the natives for the next 500 years to come. If you dot these little reserves all about and they come under the administration the Bill intends they should come, you have these little odd locations all over and the difficulty of administration is greatly increased, whereas if you appoint your Commissioners right there in their areas, they have the whole thing under their hands. If they are scattered, you know what that means: you cannot have uniformity of administration.

Mr. Chapman.] Where would you suggest that land could be bought by those people who desire to buy land?

General Myburgh.] Is it not intended that they should buy in those reserves which will be marked off as native areas and whatever may be given to them? There are locations which are not established, for instance in Zululand you can get areas; Swaziland is bound eventually to come in; Basutoland is the same. I do not see why natives should

not be allowed to buy in locations—why the law should not be altered: it is easy enough. There are vast locations; why should they not have the right to buy? What benefit could the country or the Union get by preventing them from buying there if it is going to come under one administration? Why not allow them to buy?

Mr. Chapman.] It was suggested that natives should be allowed to buy in mission reserves?

General Myburgh.] I gave evidence to that effect and I am of the same opinion. What is to prevent a little Bill being passed? I think that would provide land for a very long time: if they could buy in mission reserves and native locations.

Mr. Chapman.] What are your views with regard to Sir William Beaumont's Minority Report, with regard to neutral areas?

General Myburgh.] I cannot exactly fall in with that Report about the neutral areas. I am always against this kind of neither flesh nor fish—neither one nor the other. As I said, I am against these neutral areas. I think it is only a matter of financing the thing, and I know there will be a pretty large sum involved in it, but I think the better policy for the future welfare of the country would be to buy these people out. That was the intention. Segregation is really the root of this Bill: to get these people apart, and unless you are willing to spend a certain amount of money it cannot be accomplished. I do not think much money will be involved: the proceeds of whatever you sell in one area could be used to buy in another. The difference of money that the country will be called upon to pay will eventually be very small, that is if you buy it under arbitration. There will be a certain amount of friction, but you cannot make any law without some opposition.

I do not think there are many natives who would buy land now. I am not in favour of a native being allowed to buy where he likes; that is why I am in favour of this Bill, because it defines where both races shall be allowed to buy. I do not know that the Bill reaches very far as regards segregation, because it only prohibits natives buying land in amongst white people and *vice versâ*. The intention of the Bill was more to prevent the native swamping countries like the Free State, Natal and the Transvaal; there is not much difficulty as far as the Cape is concerned from a buying point of view. Hiring of land, sowing on half shares and the like of that was really the motive power for this Bill being brought in.

There is very little sowing on half shares in this division, practically none. In the Free State there were some districts where practically half the white people had left and given the land over to the Basutos to work.

The Chairman.] What do you think of natives being allowed to buy land under Government supervision?

General Myburgh.] I think if you prevent the thing altogether it would be better. You know what Government supervision is when it comes to dealing with or handling money. Yes, I think natives will have to be allowed to buy land some day in their areas.

By Mr. Chapman.] Eventually they may buy land in the area here. Speaking generally, I think that whatever is good enough for the white man is good enough for the native. My evidence is that I think the native ought not to be allowed to buy, because we are bordering on that enormous reserve, *i.e.* Zululand, where they have land enough for the next 500 years to come, if the native knows how to cultivate and provided he is allowed to buy land there and he can say: "Here are my four beacons; whatever improvement I put in there is mine and for my benefit." Now it is on communal tenure and for him to take out as much as he can and then leave it for the next man.

Mr. Chapman.] Would there not be some difficulty in putting other natives into that country?

General Myburgh.] Well, it may be a sentimental difficulty, but one that could easily be overcome. It is easy enough if it is properly explained to the natives and allow a tribe in occupation to more or less abide there; do not plant another tribe right in amongst them. The boundaries are so big and a very large extent of the area so thinly populated that there are heaps of room for others.

The Chairman.] Would it not create labour troubles by shifting natives?

General Myburgh.] You cannot provide for every little detail like that. Surely when those areas are occupied you will get the labour just the same. Don't think for a minute that by creating native areas you are going to take every native out from amongst the white man. There will be as many natives living here in the future as squatters and servants as there are to-day. All the evidence is to the effect that the servant is going to remain amongst the white people, therefore definite segregation falls to the ground. It is only effective as regards farming and buying land amongst the whites.

By the Chairman.] As regards buying—you have got mission reserves and you have another reserve you can go to: you can alter laws. You are going to demarcate certain areas—you are going to take certain places as native areas; that is what the Committee is for.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think that many natives will desire to buy land within the next 20 years?

General Myburgh.] I think so. I think a good percentage will, that is if they can buy it in small pieces.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there a tendency to your knowledge for the natives to go to industrial centres more than they used to in the past to work?

General Myburgh.] Yes, I think so amongst the younger generation. They are settling there. Take all the locations on the Rand, for instance: their women go up and settle there.

The Chairman.] Don't you think it would be better if natives employed in industries could live near their work, as many do in Durban and Maritzburg?

General Myburgh.] Yes, I suppose it would be. The workman always likes to have his family as near him as possible, but there would be nothing to prevent him under the Bill from living near by. The Bill does not touch upon anything relating to Local Boards and Municipalities, so it does not prevent a man from settling near a manufacturing centre.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I know the Ngotshe Division fairly well.

Mr. Chapman.] Would it not be better if a district like the Ngotshe area were taken as a native area as a whole sooner than having all these little areas here and there?

General Myburgh.] Yes, I must say I would like that principle, but I would not say that the Ngotshe District should be taken, because that borders on the Zulu Reserve, and we are of opinion that not an inch of the Vryheid or Paulpietersburg Divisions should be taken.

Mr. Chapman.] But we are assuming that land must be found for these people; would it not be better to have it in one area

General Myburgh.] Yes, if you have not Zululand adjoining.

Chairman.] As regards the other end of Natal, what about that?

General Myburgh.] I think you have locations large enough for the natives without taking additional land. I do honestly think that, as far as I know Southern Natal—provided those reserves are properly demarcated and the natives shown that they can get title in those places.

The Chairman.] You think a Bill ought to be brought in to allow natives to buy in locations?

General Myburgh.] I think so.

The Chairman.] You think it is possible to be done?

General Myburgh.] Why not? There is nothing to prevent it. I would not do injustice to the chiefs who have been given certain localities to live in, but I think the chiefs themselves, if they are shown the benefits they will get by acquiring titles, would welcome it.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you think, considering the locations and the native reserves throughout Zululand and Natal were granted to specific tribes and the tribal system is strong in Natal still, that we should hasten very slowly in giving individual title, which would really amount to a dismembering of the tribes?

General Myburgh.] Yes, I think you ought not to disturb those existing there at the present moment, but what I say is this: take a tribe like Sikepu's and say: "This is your demarcated area, within which area the tribe can acquire freehold title. Those who remain outside the borders will be subject to natives coming in and buying. Within that certain area only your tribe will be able to buy." I mean: you define a native area and within that definite area another area is defined for that particular tribe; beyond that any other natives can buy.

Report of Native Evidence taken at Paulpietersburg, immediately following meeting with Europeans.

CHIEF VUSINDHLU.] I have very little to add to my previous evidence, except to say that the recommended area is the area in which the growers of grain in this district become wealthy. They take their grain and sell it to the people there, who have no crops. It would have been feasible to have recommended such a poor area had there been locations in this district in which the natives could live. The natives are without means, having no food or property, and it would be useless to set apart an area within which they would not have the means to buy. It would even be preferable if the Government had thought fit to set apart the recommended area as a location, because at any rate it would have afforded rest for the natives who were removed from other land.

We have been thankful for the promise of the Government that locations would be set apart for us.

The Chairman.] Was that promise ever made?

Chief Vusindhlu.] The promise was made when the question of territorial segregation was first spoken of.

SAMUEL MASONDO.] The only matter for which I give thanks is that the Government has not forgotten our existence.

With regard to the recommended area, we have nothing to add to our previous complaints respecting its unsuitability. We realise that the Government has not forgotten us

and it gives us proof of its wish to do something for us. Although I personally have no complaints there are some of us who suffer hardships.

Although we trust the Government we are disappointed with the provision which is offered to us in regard to land. It is similar to a man slaughtering a beast for you and presenting you with its heels. For the last 18 years the Boer and German farmers have grown rich in supplying the natives in the recommended area with food. We should have had nothing to complain of had this land been granted to us as a location. We previously understood that by the Government's reference to reserves and locations that either a reserve or a location would be set apart for us in this division.

The suggestion that we should buy land is one that is undoubtedly beyond those of us who live in this division. In other divisions some natives are resident on Government lands where they may earn for their own benefit, but here we are living in the service of the farmers. We receive no wages and we have scarcely enough on which to subsist or clothe ourselves.

We had hoped that the Government would grant us a location upon which some of us could reside and earn money. We appreciate the willingness of the Government to listen to what we have to say. We complain of the unsuitability of the recommended area.

ALBERT MANXELE.] The recommended area is one which entirely dissatisfies us. That district is malarial and we had hoped that the Government would set apart a better area.

The recommended area is insufficient and we are afraid that we may be compelled by the Government to accept it against our wish.

CHIEF MAXIBANA.] I live in the recommended area and have control of the natives there. We do not know what it is to reap "Amabele," and the extent to which malarial fever prevails is astonishing. People are buried daily.

It is impossible to keep cattle. We own nothing there, not even goats. There is fever, famine and funerals.

CHARLIE MTEMBU.] We entreat the Government not to expect us to live in areas from which the original inhabitants have run away.

Copy.

Paulpietersburg,
November 22nd, 1917.

Secretary,
Natives' Land Committee,
Office of Chief Native Commissioner,
Pietermaritzburg.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed I am forwarding a letter from Mr. S. Baranov. Will you be good enough to put it before the Committee and, if possible, take it as evidence from Mr. Baranov.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. W. MYBURGH.

Copy.

31 Kapteijn Street,
Hospital Hill, Johannesburg,
12th November, 1917.

M. Myburgh, Esq., M.L.A.,
Paulpietersburg, Natal.

Dear Sir,

I received a notice from the Magistrate of Vryheid that the Natives' Land Committee would be sitting on the 5th November about the segregation of natives. I did not attend this sitting, as the Committee were only authorised to consider how the existing law should be carried into effect and not to consider whether the law should remain in force or not.

As you are aware, I am one of the first settlers in Vryheid and have some experience of the state of the natives when we first arrived at Vryheid (1883) and how they are at present. My experience is that in the early days the natives round about Vryheid had famines every year and were poverty-stricken and did not know how to work or to help themselves against drought or famine, but gradually through the example shown by the white population amongst them they became more civilised and more used to working, and the result is that during the last 15 or 20 years the natives from Vryheid to Louwsburg have had no famine, and they are far better off than those natives who live to the east of Louwsburg, where there are no whites to show them an example. That is why I con-

sider it an injustice to the natives to segregate them. Instead of encouraging more white people to settle to the east of Louwsburg, the Legislature is trying to segregate the natives and to send them back to the state of barbarianism which existed in Cetewayo's and Tchaka's times. You will find that there is more Kafir beer-drinking and fighting amongst the natives living beyond Louwsburg than amongst those living in the neighbourhood of the whites.

There is another point which I noticed was mentioned in Parliament, viz.: immorality as an excuse for segregation, and I say that it is just the contrary. You will find that comparatively speaking the number of white people between Vryheid and Louwsburg who cohabit with native women is very much less than between Louwsburg and beyond to the east: the reason being, as I take it, that where there are more of his own race settled near by it acts as a deterrent against a white man cohabiting with a native woman.

From the white farmer's point of view the injustice to them is that from the earliest years several white men acquired farms with the hope that they will be able to make use of them, if not for themselves then for their children, and several farms have already been developed and considerable money spent on them and they have been proved to be quite good. Now if there is segregation of the natives, the farmers are restricted as to the disposal of their farms, as the law will only allow them to sell the farms to natives or to the Government for the natives, and those farmers who have settled there will sustain very heavy loss through the value of their farms being greatly diminished in a poor market, and fine tracts of land which have been proved to be suitable for white settlers will be locked up against the whites. Besides this, as you know every farmer likes to have more white neighbours, but this law prevents that.

As a matter of fact the natives in these parts are not by any means overcrowded and the country is very sparsely populated with natives and even stock is very much separated.

I feel sure that if you will bring the above facts before the Prime Minister he will confirm what I have said, as he knows the condition of Vryheid from the beginning just as well as I do, and I sincerely hope that you will be able under the circumstances to influence the Government to repeal the law which will have the effect of doing more harm to South Africa in the future than any other law.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) S. BARANOV.

Report of Meeting held at Pietermaritzburg, on 6th December, 1917, in the Umgeni Court.

Mr. GEORGE MOE.] I have nothing specially to refer to except that I have always said with regard to the locations there is plenty of room without any additions—so far as the locations I know personally—if they are treated in the right manner, that is to say—order put into the locations. As the state is now it is chaotic and a "bad state of affairs in Denmark," and if you gentlemen know the locations you will bear me out. I mean a strong man has a certain valley and he will stick to that and say "That is mine," and not even the chief dare interfere. Natives from farms absolutely fear to go to locations to build there. Even if they have relatives there and belong to that same tribe, they would rather remain on the farms than go back to locations. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the Government should get inspectors or supervisors to arrange that. It would have to be started right from the bottom rung of the ladder—to divide and lay out all these different areas. It should be divided in such a way that they have their commonage, their building sites and their fields.

The Chairman.] How much land do you think a native would need to cultivate?

Mr. Moe.] Not more than three acres a hut, if it is well cultivated and if he takes a little trouble to put on a little manure, even if he carries it on his back: it rots away there in his kraal, but he would not take it and put it on his lands.

I know the Mbomvini Location, also the Tugela Location, which I got to know during the Boer War, right away up to Helpmakaar, as well as the big Amaxulu Location, the Zululand locations and the present location I am bordering on now (Table Mountain, near Pietermaritzburg).

Mr. Chapman.] Do any of those locations lend themselves to closer settlement scheme?

Mr. Moe.] Yes, decidedly, there are some very good places. The one in my mind's eye is the Tugela Location, where the Government has taken out a huge sluit. I think there are about 2,000 acres put under water there. There is a huge fortune in that land. It does not require fertilizers. If any European had even 50 acres there he would make a very good living out of it.

By Mr. Chapman.] In the Table Mountain Location there are some nice plots where the river could be taken out. It is not very well watered otherwise. There have been droughts for the last 15 or 20 years.

The Chairman.] Would you recommend fencing off so much of the bottom area?

Mr. Moe.] I would simply make one divisional fence, so that the fields are alone, and where they build. They must make their own fencing arrangements. They should live at the site where they have their cattle grazing.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is a very good location down at Mzangedwa's in the Umsundusi Valley. The natives from the surrounding country cultivate there, but there is no system whatever. It would carry a much larger population if properly organized. In between the gardens there is lots of waste land which is quite good to cultivate.

Yes, there would be difficulty in getting the native to use the land in the manner indicated. You would want a very sympathetic but firm man to do it, but I am sure these areas would carry very many more natives if that policy were properly carried out. There is a great objection on the part of the native to be put in villages; he abhors the idea. There is no necessity to pack them into villages; it can be done by degrees.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there a tendency on the part of the native to go in more largely at present for pastoral pursuits than he did in the past, or is he falling away and inclined to drift to towns and labour centres?

Mr. Moe.] No, the whole feeling and the pastoral tendency in the native is there very strong. If he had enough you would never see him here to work. As regards the younger people, yes and no: a native who is not compelled to go will not go; he would rather remain. If he is in trouble he has to go, and once he has gone he goes away again.

The Chairman.] The native who drifts away has no standing in the country?

Mr. Moe.] No, he has no cattle, no goats, no nothing. He has no feeling of responsibility. Very few come back. Those who work and are brilliant make ends meet and come back with money to buy cattle.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is very difficult to say regarding these neutral areas. I have no specific views on the question, but I think it is a good thing to have neutral areas. The future will show what they are fit for.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think there would be a tendency on the part of natives from other parts to rush to those areas?

Mr. Moe.] Very likely if they are allowed to do so. The native is a bad payer and there would be difficulty as far as cash payments are concerned. I think it would be far better to allow natives to buy in the locations than in these areas. I would be in favour of a Bill being passed and presented in the House that they are allowed to buy in the locations.

Mr. Chapman.] With regard to your own farm ("Goedverwachting"), have you done anything further?

Mr. Moe.] Nothing. I have told the Chief Native Commissioner that I am willing to sell and named a price if he wished to buy. Of course my views are not altered when I say there is sufficient room in the locations. We have not agreed upon a mutual price; that, I believe, would have to be put under arbitration. I would agree to go to arbitration. I have an alternative, Mr. Chairman: Table Mountain is abutting on my farm. It is high land, and at the present moment it is a trap for cattle. During the storm last October eight head of cattle and two horses, as well as sheep and goats, went over the krantzes and were knocked to pulp. It is only a trap for native stock at present. As an alternative I am prepared and would like to suggest an exchange of Table Mountain for the portion of my farm south of the Umsundusi.

Why should not Government leave all these things alone until after the war? The natives—not understanding these things take a long, long time—wonder what is going to happen. Of course, if they could be disabused and told by good interpreters, all well and good—but you know the working of the native mind.

Mr. H. F. KOTHE.] I live at Edendale. Now, Edendale was a farm belonging to a Dutchman some 60 years ago, and Mr. Allison came from Swaziland with a lot of natives and he bought that farm and partitioned it off. In the beginning that was all right, but gradually the ground was partly bonded and partly it was got by Indians, so that at present the position is this—that about 400 acres is owned by white people and the bigger remaining portion is let to Indians. The owners of that land are natives; they sub-let the bigger portion to Indians. Very few indeed work the ground themselves. I understand Edendale is not coloured red on the map, and it is not intended to make it a native territory, but as no one has given evidence from Edendale I thought it better to give my views.

All that country could be irrigated. Well, a native does not know irrigation. It is near Maritzburg and there is a big native location at Zwartkop already. Those Indians irrigate; if they cannot irrigate they won't lease the ground. All the ground leased by Indians is irrigable. I hold 105 acres there, all of which I can irrigate and am doing so at present. I intend to go in largely for an osier plantation. The Chief Horticulturist said he had not seen anything better in the Union. Four-fifths of this ground can all be irrigated, not only from the water-fall but higher up. I have made application for a water-furrow from the Umsundusi, which would give in the driest season 80 horse power. Mr. Methven and Carl Hall were there in October last year, when the river was very low, and confirmed this.

I have another thing on my mind—it is not true that a native should have to sell his ground in six months' time?

The Chairman.] No.

Mr. Kothe.] Well, I mention it because it is being spread about, at Edendale.

Mr. F. SCHROENN.] Our natives in South Africa are increasing very much. Suppose, for argument's sake, those locations that are being fixed upon now, and even if several farms are added to them, and there is sufficient land for several thousand natives—what is the position going to be in a few years' time? At the same time, in my opinion, I think the native problem should be treated the same as every other problem—on the basis of demand and supply. Make it compulsory for a native to work, say, nine months in the year, because I do not think you can get our South African native to work twelve months in the year.

The Chairman.] If you make it compulsory for a man to work one month in the year it is slavery.

Mr. Schroenn.] Well, it is an ugly word to call it, but it would be to the man's advantage.

Now, as to getting the natives into closer settlement, I heard what Mr. Moe said. From what I know of most native locations at present that would be quite impossible. Look at the broken country right from Table Mountain down to the sea. There are a few odd patches which would be suitable, but what about the great balance?

Mr. Chapman.] There are other locations which would lend themselves to that policy.

Mr. J. F. E. BARNES.] I think the only direct evidence which will come directly within your province would be possibly in connection with the Transkei lots which in February last I had an exceptional opportunity of going over with Mr. Moffatt, the Chief Magistrate, and Colonel Muller, Assistant.

The portion that was being surveyed at the time lay about 30 miles west from Umtata. We drove through a number of settlements which had already for some years been laid off, and as a Natal man I was struck by the very great difference that it makes in connection with a very thick population. It is far more thickly populated there than we are here. The outstanding features were that in each settlement on the higher ground the huts were all drawn up, practically like a camp, and down in the valleys, in the agricultural ground, the allotments were laid off, generally perfectly straight lines and rectangular, with very well marked beacons of heavy stones four or five feet long buried to within 2 feet 6 inches of the top, with large numbers and letters on them of at least 9 inches in size marking each corner. The areas are as a rule 4 morgen, *i.e.* 9 acres about. They are all very fully cultivated, well fenced in, and then their building lots are just like our town tenements—each man has a little plot to each hut. Before all these are laid out the *modus operandi* seems to be that the Chief Magistrate gives notice that the Government is going to consider the question of laying out a settlement. They meet the local magistrate with a representative from the Surveyor-General's Department. Then on an appointed day they meet all the chiefs and people on the ground. They don't hurry; they take days over the business. Every man has his talk; it is a big indaba, and then finally it is put to the vote as to whether they wish it or not. The particular district that was being surveyed when I was there embraced an area of fully 20 miles by 15 or 16, and other areas had been laid out like that. Of course, when I come to think of our broken country in comparison with that rolling country I fancy we will have to modify very considerably the areas and the arrangement of the settlements, and so on, but on broad lines it seemed to me to be right.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, it seemed to be very satisfactory, but I will admit this: I got all my information from the powers-that-be who were running the show, but really I could see nothing to the contrary, and there was the fact that this particular area I had been looking at had been decided on by the people themselves with the evidence before them of all those previous settlements which had been taken up before.

The Chairman.] A lot of our country is very broken.

Mr. Barnes.] I am sure it would be very much better if we adopted it here in a modified form, giving them all their agricultural land in good ground suitable for it instead of the horrible waste there is now. I believe the mission stations are the very best to begin with this scheme, and I was very glad to hear a start has been made. Nearly all our mission stations are good selected ground. The next natural step from that would be to the locations. I think it would be much easier to bring in legislation to allow this than to bring in this great disruptive Bill, which makes us feel nervous.

I have no doubt in my mind a great deal could be done if practical men put their heads to it, and I do—in a general way—know all our locations very well. Taking the example of the Transkei again, remember each man has to buy his lot; he pays roughly about 10s. an acre for it. Each man gets his freehold title, but subject to certain conditions he has to carry out, and I think your Commission ought to get further details on that point—I had not the opportunity of going into these details.

The point in my mind is that it would be a very great mistake to make the natives presents of any more land; the Cape Colony, I believe, have worked on those lines: the amount that they pay for the purchase of their land more than covers the cost of the surveys, etc. The principle of giving they consider to be wrong; make them buy it at a reasonable price.

I think our people more or less went wrong in overlooking the fact that right away from the beginning—from the early days of Natal when the Constitution was first passed—the whole feeling of Natal was for individual title *versus* tribal title. As far back as 1860, in Governor-General Scott's time, the feeling became so acute between our Legislative Council and the Governor—with his endeavouring to press on the laying out of large locations in Natal and they constantly objecting, asking him to consider some other ways and means and pointing out (with such foresight!) what the result was bound to be—that they afterwards asked for his recall if he persisted in proceeding with the laying out of what they considered to be wasteful large areas of land in this Colony in direct opposition to the wishes and feelings of all the colonists of Natal. They begged the Duke of Newcastle to take action for his recall. The matter was suspended; the Duke of Newcastle called for a report, and old Sir Theophilus and Governor Scott carried the day against them, and that was the most hurtful day to Natal.

I would say it is simply this: that a work is decided on; inspectors went out and prepared plans; others went out to work on it, and when I went out afterwards I saw the foundations were absolutely wrong, and that is my feeling about the whole of this Bill. We are extending and throwing open more and more land to our natives. We are allowing this generations to grow up with the full belief that they are entitled to all this land. I do not know how you feel about that, but I feel very strongly that it ought to be frankly and plainly stated to our natives—not in an offensive way, but pointed out—what the position was in 1840. Then there were practically no natives in the country, and you know how quickly the population flocked in from all sides, and in 1860 the population had grown to 180,000. The Government of that day did not restrict the allotment of land to our own aborigines *versus* the refugees: they laid out ample land for them all—a huge area for the then population. Now that they have grown up, and unfortunately in my own time, we have given new locations—in Alfred County and elsewhere locations have been opened up. Even then I expressed my opinion that I thought it was a pity that this was done; that the day was coming when we could have no more land to give away, and that it is against the best interests of the country to allow our natives to think that when they get themselves congested, because of the wasteful method of occupying the land, that we would give them more.

Mr. Chapman points out that land is not to be given to the natives.

Mr. Barnes.] I have only a very general knowledge of the areas but the principle, I think, is right enough—that they should have the opportunity of buying land. Go back to the rebellion time—I had two very pointed examples of just the effect of natives being their own land-owners in different parts of the country. I was out-spanned beyond Ladysmith, and while we were out-spanned I saw a native and his wife and a youngster ploughing away about a quarter of a mile off. I got into conversation with him, and I said: "How is it you are not with Bambata?" He said: "Look at my ground. What would happen there?" Away down the south, in the Ixopo District, almost exactly the same thing occurred, showing the feeling of possession gives them a feeling of right and tends to make them more loyal *versus* the location system, which is guided almost like our party Government system.

Mr. Chapman.] Where are we to get that land from?

Mr. Barnes.] I think first you should utilise to the utmost the existing locations. Naturally it will mean a Bill through Parliament, but there is every right that that Bill should be brought in. That land was given 50 or 60 years ago for the natives to use—not for them to abuse, and why should the progressive portion of the country be penalised because of that abuse. You would have to have a law to allot the balance of that land for individual tenure.

I think you would have great difficulty in dealing with the chiefs, but you would have to break old arrangements and make it worth their while. Compensate them straight away and liberally. Leave them no room for thinking they were cheated or treated unfairly. I think a great many of the locations are more or less suitable—a large proportion of each location would be suitable.

I think it is pitiable—looking at it from the point of view of a white man—that after having taken up a farm and spent an enormous amount of money on that farm, it should be included in the native area; it is an astounding proposition. I think it is childish to think that the land will not depreciate in value. Let the man who says it, purchase land, which is treated in that manner and he will know at once that the measures already published have brought down the value of the land. A would-be purchaser will not put his money into land included in these areas.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think that to a limited extent neutral areas are essential and might be useful on the lines you have explained just now—for cutting up for sale to natives and so on. I should say that it is almost absolutely certain natives from other portions of the Province would want to come into a neutral area. I think in a law of this sort it would be perfectly right and fair to say: "No. Natal and Zululand are already so thickly populated it must be clearly understood that there must be no influx from other Provinces."

Mr. Chapman.] Would there not be a danger of natives gradually settling on that land (neutral areas) so that Government will say: "This is a native area"?

Mr. Barnes.] I think there would be every likelihood of it. They treat these neutral areas as the natives in the old days treated Natal, and that will happen again. If you made a neutral territory where they had benefits, naturally they will go there if not prohibited.

The outstanding part in connection with the Bill, to my mind, is that question of native servants, labour tenants and squatters. I do think that seems so unfair to our old natives who have been so very many years on private farms. We know that the natives of this country are really far better off when they are on private farms, working and under control, than they are in any other conditions, and as years go on they seem to be more and more inclined to come and settle on farms. Reading the evidence taken at different places, I think you will admit that the natives say they do not want to be driven into locations and leave the white farmers. I mention this now. That is my opinion as strongly as I can give it.

When you think that there are over 400,000 of these people—squatters and labourers and so on—to be dealt with, it is a serious thing. What can we expect but real, downright serious trouble, and it is so unfair to the unfortunate people.

Col. the Hon. E. M. GREENE.] As you notified you were going to be present I thought I had better put in an appearance in case you want to ask me anything. Are you dealing with Zululand?

The Chairman.] Yes, we have to go to Zululand, Col. Greene.

Col. Greene.] I want to put down before you my strong objection. When I was giving evidence before the Select Committee in Cape Town, in the presence of the other representatives of the Agricultural Union, I was in the box for three days, and I think on either the second or third day (I had, with the consent of the Committee delayed giving any evidence on Zululand until I had dealt with Natal proper) when I came to Zululand, Mr. Malan, the Minister of Education, sitting alongside the Prime Minister, asked me if I would excuse him interrupting me, and he asked me then if I knew all about the Dartnell-Saunders' Delimitation Report of Zululand. I explained that I did, and then he asked me, as I was the spokesman for the Natal representatives, whether we in Natal would be satisfied if the schedule attached to the Bill was so altered in respect to Zululand as to conform with the report of Dartnell and Saunders. I said although we had objected very strongly to that Delimitation at the time subsequently we had consented to the annexation of the country on those terms and we were prepared to loyally abide by that decision. Mr. Malan said: "Under those circumstances, Colonel Greene, I do not think you need trouble to say one word to us about Zululand," and that was repeated to us the following day. In view of that statement that the Government had definitely decided to abide by the Saunders-Dartnell Report, I say it is wrong that there should be any further enquiry in regard to Zululand.

Mr. Chapman refers to report of Select Committee on Native Affairs, also to correspondence between Natives' Land Committee and Secretary for Native Affairs, and states they are not allowed to exclude Zululand.

Col. Greene.] It is very difficult for me to follow how the evidence was given, because all the evidence is put into narrative form. You may be asking me a question and give a lengthy statement, and I say "Yes"; the shorthand-writer tries to put that all into an affirmative statement made by me, and you see it was a hopeless mess, so much so that the evidence was perfectly unintelligible at first, and we had to revise the whole business.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have altered the evidence. This is all perfectly true. Understand me, I am not questioning the accuracy of that. Mr. Malan asked me and I said we would be absolutely satisfied with that. I said we subsequently agreed to take over Zululand on those terms and we did not want to deviate from it in the least. Having dealt with the position of Zululand, I go on to something else: now that shows you there is something very funny about it. When the evidence is given to me I can only make it out as unintelligible. Then comes Stuart, one of the members of the Committee, and what he said to me was: "You have said very little about Zululand." I said: "No, in view of what Mr. Malan said to me yesterday I should be very ill-advised to pursue the question further." He said: "Well, he is only one member of the Committee." I said: "Yes, but he is a Minister of the Crown, and I should be very ill-advised to continue after his remark yesterday."

I said nothing more about Zululand because Mr. Malan said I should not. Why? Because if we were satisfied that the Government would agree to that delimitation there was no necessity. There is no question about it. He stopped it. He said: "There is no need for you to say anything about Zululand." I am just trying to show you how it is confirmed by this record here.

I was asked to correct the evidence there, and I first of all absolutely refused. I said: "I will not stay in Cape Town," and ultimately they sent it up. I had 48 hours in which to alter it. Now, I could not anticipate all this sort of business. I had to go through all this lot and try and make it intelligible—into a narrative story—but if I had realised that this question was ever likely to have been brought up I should have made it so clear that there would have been no question.

As far as Zululand is concerned, I only want to say this: Do not let us play with the

matter and be hypocrites. If Zululand is sufficient for the requirements of the natives living in Zululand to-day—I mean that portion of Zululand which was reserved for natives—it is childish or ridiculous to set apart land for other natives, because there are no natives who would at the behest of any Government in their wildest dreams ever think of going to live in amongst the Zulus. Would they? I see John Shepstone mentioned something about it before his death. Their lives would not be worth a year's purchase—a black man dare to come into their country! The natives won't do it.

In the same way in connection with the areas down on the Umzimkulu, do remember this, you who should know more about natives than I do, that one of the biggest punishments we ever meted out to natives in connection with sheep stealing was to deport them down to, say, Harding District. The biggest punishment you can inflict upon a native is deportation from the area where his tribe is residing. He is an outcast. If you have reserves in Umzimkulu they can only be for those natives who are contiguous to them.

By Mr. Chapman.] If a native goes and buys land there he is a different sort of man. He is an educated man. I think there would be a tendency on the part of natives to buy land in a neutral area if it was suitable. The fact that history has recorded so far is this: that where natives have purchased—if you take in Natal alone native land purchased in the last 50 years has totalled 260,000 acres—to-day they have not one half of the land; most of it has gone back again. That is the tendency, because of the system on which they do purchase. The only purchase I recommended before the Select Committee is to give individual title in these mission lands, which I do want to see use put to. Where it comes to this communal purchase it ultimately ends with the native going away with the strongest idea in his mind that he has been done by the white man, whereas he has not been done at all. He does not understand it at all; he does not understand what being jointly and severally responsible is.

By the Chairman.] Syndicates of five are bad. You don't want five; you want individual tenure. Do look at the curse it is in South Africa in respect of the whites. What is the origin of this poor white question in South Africa? Are you really going to try and force the native in the same position. Do you know what the origin of the poor white is? It is really, when you work it back, through a man dying and leaving the whole of his property—a limited property—to a very numerous progeny in undivided shares. Each undivided share is not capable of bringing up one family. In turn these families have spent their time in breeding and bringing up a huge family until—as Mr. Merriman pointed out—there are cases of one farm being held in 760 odd undivided portions. Well, the result is this: that the people (it has been a hopeless thing; of course, they never had anything in them to start with) have drifted into being white animals—into a horrible state. We don't want this; individual holding is infinitely better, because they are not accustomed to that sort of thing, and where is the necessity for it? If you could see any reason for five men, do it. When you are going to have five you are always going to have this: I must transfer it on one condition—that they are to be jointly and severally responsible for the purchase price, and if one man fails he brings the whole bag of tricks down with him, and—as I have said just now—he goes away thinking he has a grievance and he has been done down.

I think it encourages fellows to be extravagant—to take more upon their forks than they can carry—with the result that in a very few years the property goes back to the seller. That has been the history of Natal.

I do not want to add anything more to what I have said about the mission reserves, but I do appeal to you to make it as strong as you can in your Report.

Gentlemen, you all belong to Natal here; I say this: I believe firmly, from the bottom of my heart, that the people of Natal, if they are satisfied that the natives who wish to live in these reserves had not got sufficient land for their requirements—they would be perfectly willing for the Government to expropriate—from the public exchequer—sufficient land for their requirements. But first of all prove that they have not enough land for their requirements. Do not attempt to put the blame on the natives; the blame rests with us. We have simply pitchforked these fellows into locations and washed our hands of them. If we do appoint sympathetic and competent men as inspectors in these locations and see that the land is put to its best economic use, I think you will find that they have ample lands for all the people who want to reside in these locations. The locations are not congested; it is the reckless and very shameful way in which the lands have been used in the past which has brought about congestion, and you are not going to relieve it if you provide another two million acres if you bundle in natives as you have done in the past.

By Mr. Chapman.] If you think you can cut up the locations, I do not mind a bit. I think there is very great difficulty about it. Remember this: a large proportion of the natives are on private farms, and why? Because they are better off; they are better contented, and they are certainly more law-abiding than any other natives in the Union. I can tell you this (here is the Chief Magistrate of Maritzburg, who has had much more experience than I have) that the bulk of the natives in locations, if they could get upon suitable private farms, would leave the locations to-morrow. They are far better off and they are much better contented; is that not so? (Mr. Foxon assents.) And to talk of driving them off!

I have had a good deal to do with these sort of things. Hang delimitations—you have got a free hand to say what you want to do in your report. Although your enquiry has been limited, I think you are entitled to deal with the principle of the thing; you can point these things out in making your report.

I said to the Committee: "Gentlemen, do just appreciate this fact: that the drafter of this Bill comes from the Cape. He has been imbued with the idea that a servant—the only servant we can recognise under the law—is the man who works twelve months in and twelve months out, because that is the custom in the Cape Colony." I told them natives are entirely different in other parts of the country. In Natal our natives work six months in and are six months at home. If he is a labour tenant you have to get a licence, but not if he is a servant. I said: "What right have you to say that a man who works for me six months on and off is not a servant just as much as a twelve months' man?" I said that our labour often comes from the "thorns" and it means, if he works twelve months continuously, that he never sees his wife and his children. After we had argued the whole of this question they said: "That is quite a new aspect of the question. Would it meet your views if we altered the definition of servant to be one who works six months instead of twelve?" I said: "Certainly, but we object strongly to have to go to any magistrate to get a licence for any man that is a servant." I said: "It is intolerable. Who is the magistrate? How is he to tell whether I want labour?" and I gave a case in point of a man who adjoins me who has three times the labour I have on my property. Is a magistrate going to tell him that he has more labour than he is entitled to? I said: "You want a man who knows the potentialities and capabilities of each separate farm." It is too childish! I said we objected very, very strongly, and—when all is said and done—there is hardly a farmer in Natal who has got sufficient labour from his labour tenants—or as you call them, his servants—to meet the whole of his requirements year in and year out. In the reaping season alone we all have to get outside labour. We rely to a great extent to supplement our permanent labour with outside labour.

Now as to Sir Thomas Watt's statement at a meeting which he had at Dundee, I feel that—whatever our private opinions are—we should not start any fresh agitations in South Africa. I have tried to let this drop, because General Botha appealed to us at the Select Committee to stop the agitation. He said: "We are going to see how we can meet you. The Select Committee are going thoroughly through their evidence," and he published a statement in Parliament, which appeared in the "Cape Times" of the 5th May, in which he said that after the Bill has been amended by the Select Committee it shall be published throughout the length and breadth of the Union with a view of giving all who are interested an opportunity of making representations through—well, never mind through what; principally newspapers and others ways. He says the Bill shall not be proceeded with by Parliament until at least a year has elapsed after the amended Bill has been published in the "Gazette." I felt, on General Botha's positive assurance to us, that it would be a scandal to try and work up an agitation until we knew what they were going to do.

Sir Thomas Watt, at Dundee, said we recognised the futility and the absurdity of our position and the whole thing has died out. Well, it is rather dirty, because his head appealed to us to hold our hands until we saw the Bill, and we have loyally acceded to his request, and that is why nothing has been done. Gentlemen, I do not believe it for a moment. General Botha made that statement in the House; he repeated the statement when we appeared before him giving our evidence before the Select Committee, and it was published in the "Cape Times." However much I may differ from him, I have no grounds and do not for a moment believe that he told a wilful falsehood when he made that statement in Parliament, and until I have better grounds than Sir Thomas Watt's statement I shall not change my opinion. That Bill cannot be proceeded with until the Select Committee has dealt with all the remaining chapters, re-framed the Bill, and published it before the country.

Mr. Chapman.] If this Bill becomes law will not a lot of natives be dispossessed of their property?

Col. Greene.] I find it impossible to believe that it could happen. The natives have complained to me and have complained to Mr. Wheelwright (I know it, because they have told me) that the Bill has been explained to them in so many different ways, and they want to know who is telling the truth. Well, to my mind it is a shameful state of affairs when natives can speak of officials in that way. They don't understand it, and now—when we know that the Bill as before us is not the Bill which is to be placed before Parliament—what madness it is in holding meetings of these people, because these people have remarkable memories, and if there is any departure from it afterwards they will say: "You lied," and will give you your words back. That is a position one does not want to see a white man in.

Mr. Chapman.] We have to consider the possibility of some of these natives leaving the farms—where are they to go?

Col. Greene.] I do not think there are very, very many at the present moment. All I can say is this: that I do really think you ought to make some representations if there is a possibility of that being done, for the sake of our good name; that we are not going to have done in Natal what was done in the Free State in 1914. It would be worth your

while to spend your time to find out the result of the 1913 Act in the Free State. It was one of the most shameful things in the annals of South Africa. It is absolutely true; it resulted in the Free State in the most shameful form of slavery. They never provided a square inch of land for those fellows. They were sent out in the public roads with their wives and families, and they were refused to graze their cattle as they went along. The cattle died, and their children died. In desperation they went about the country trying to find a place to go to, and they had to sell their labour for whatever the Dutch farmers chose to give. They had been the men who had worked the farms, with their own stock, on halves for the European. They were wealthy people. They had got their stock. Not one beast belonging to the white man was ever used; the whole of the stock required for ploughing had to be provided by the native, and those natives had to take such terms as they chose to offer them, binding themselves as servants on terms which we in Natal would not think of offering, to save their children.

You have got the reserves, mission reserves and locations. You have ample room if the Government will do what all previous Governments should have done. See that the land is used in the best way possible. We have to teach these fellows. We have to teach our own sons, because we know it is absolutely necessary if they hope to be successful in after life that they should have some training. Is not the native in the same position? He must be taught.

Mr. Chapman.] What is your view, Colonel Greene, regarding neutral areas?

Col. Greene.] My view is that Natal is a neutral area to-day, or was before this Act came into force, and it is a great pity it should not be, but I do think the law requires altering to stop this communal purchase. If you restricted it to individual purchase I do not think the law required any alteration at all as far as Natal was concerned.

I do not know that you want any restrictions as regards neutral areas. These areas are only being made neutral areas because we do not think they are eminently suited for European occupation. Right in the centre, where it is very broken, it is only fit for natives. If there is a possibility of its being permanently so mixed that we are going to have a few European farms right in the centre of a lot of natives, then, I say, whether they like it or not, I should like to see the whole area made a native area, because it is bad for the Europeans.

By the Chairman.] Well, as regards the Buffalo Flats, really they encouraged those wretched creatures and it was a bad move, but I do not think you need trouble about that very much because the whole of that will come back. The native is like someone else we know there—he must go. The only danger was when there was a large number, but they are getting fewer and fewer. They are such an improvident lot that, whether they have paid or not, they will mortgage and borrow money.

Mr. Chapman.] What is your opinion with regard to Sir William Beaumont's Minority Report regarding neutral areas? He recommends north of the Tugela and south of the Umkomaas.

Col. Greene.] I think it is rather rough on the north of the Tugela and south of the Umkomaas myself.

The Chairman.] You would rather see it for the whole of the Colony?

Col. Greene.] Well, I have only given evidence as an individual. Speaking freely, my feeling is this: it is very fine for those who have got the government in their hands to talk like this, but we have a duty to do towards the natives. The native has rights just as we have right, and I feel very, very strongly on the subject that an Indian can purchase and a native cannot. Now, I think that the native has better rights than the Indian has, and I don't think we have got anything to fear by giving him his full rights to purchase and hold individually any lands in his power to purchase.

Mr. Chapman.] You would not object to a native purchasing a farm next to you.

Col. Greene.] No, because I know such a thing is an impossibility when you come to an individual purchase. The native cannot purchase a farm except by communal purchase, and I should object to that for all I am worth.

The Chairman.] When the native is more educated, what is he going to say?

Col. Greene.] He is going to say a darned lot, and I think it is shameful to think that we, with our aeroplanes, big guns, scientifical inventions, and so forth, know that a native rising is nothing to be feared—that ought not to enter into consideration at all. I think it is too ghastly to think that he will never be able to fight for his rights. I don't want him to ever have to be in a position that he would need to fight for them or feel that they were not absolutely safeguarded by the governing race. All this outcry about the future—I think it is bad policy to try and look too far forward. Let the future look after itself. We have seen what has been the position when they have had a free hand to purchase: it has not resulted in anything very much. And when you come to settle the native question, after all they are human beings; their requirements continually change and legislation for white or black must vary.

Lieut.-Col. F. E. FOXON (Chief Magistrate, Pietersmaritzburg).] I have nothing further to add except with regard to my own farms at Port Shepstone. I request that they be not placed in the native area. I gave my evidence very fully, and I would like to supplement this regarding the natives on private farms: I wish to point out that few

farmers in Natal can successfully farm unless they have natives on their land. Under the conditions which will exist if the Act is passed, as it is these natives will have to work all the year round. They will not submit to that, and the result will be they will leave the farms, which will, of course, be detrimental to farming.

The Chairman.] Where will they go to, Mr. Foxon?

Lt.-Col. Foxon.] They will go somewhere. They will clear out. These natives are determined not to stay on as what they call slaves. They say: "You are forcing us to be slaves and we will not submit to that." They have no objections to remaining on the farms as rent-paying natives and receiving pay for their labour, but they do object to have to work in lieu of rent.

Mr. Chapman.] Even if they got paid the current rate of wage?

Lt.-Col. Foxon.] Then they would not mind that. I am speaking of farms in Natal. After three years the European would have to pay £3 per annum to the Government for each man. It is an injustice to these people. It affects both the farmers and the natives. At present most of these natives on European farms are perfectly satisfied. We want to deal with these people sympathetically. They have been expressing their views very forcibly. They say: "Government is playing with fire. We are very satisfied. Why are these new laws being forced upon us?" They are law-abiding people and do not want to become otherwise.

If these conditions prevail they must sign a written contract. The kraal-head is sent for; he will probably appear; the sons will not appear, and what remedy has the farmer against those sons? There is nothing provided in the Act, and it will be this—that the whole kraal will be ejected, whereas provision should be made that if they fail they should be liable to a penalty. There is no provision whatever regarding that. It will mean the farmer will turn these people off because they will not enter into these contracts, whereas the kraal-heads are willing to do so.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, a very large percentage of natives will be dispossessed. The kraal-heads are quite willing that their own sons should work, but the sons won't. The majority of cases of ejectment are due to this cause—because the sons won't work. Therefore you must give power to deal with those sons. At the present moment we are altering the whole of our hut tax conditions. We are doing away with the kraal-head and dealing with each son who is married as a separate kraal.

Every five years these members of the Commission to be appointed are to retire. Well, I think continuity of service is advisable. I think that every two years two of them should retire and may be re-appointed. If that was done you would have continuity of action.

I have suggested two farms—"Zandfontein" and "Riet Vallei," in the Camperdown Division—which might be added to the native area. They are entirely occupied by natives. I am not quite sure, but I believe they are owned by the Vanderplank Estate. They are right on the Umgeni.

Report of Native Evidence at Pietermaritzburg.

Chief LADUMA.] I have no further statement to make, as I have made full statements at previous meetings. I have attended to-day in deference to the request of the magistrate, as we were told there was to be a meeting. I have nothing to add.

Chief MHLOLA.] I agree with the previous speaker. I also have nothing to add to what I have already stated to our own magistrate. The present Committee has arrived after our statements have been made, and we trust they will have access to those statements in order to see what our views are.

Chiefs MGOMA, SILISIBI, LOLAKA, MAHAQWA, SIDUMA and Chief MAGUZA'S Induna all spoke in the same terms, the last-named adding that he was instructed to represent the need for locations.

Report of Evidence taken at Durban, Natal, on 7th December, 1917.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY.] I am Secretary of the Durban and Coast Society of Agriculture and Industry. Mr. Goble, of Upper Tongaat, writes to say that the condition of the roads makes it impossible for him to be present. Mr. H. C. Heenan, of Tongaat, writes a letter couched in practically the same words. Mr. Swales, of Phœnix, has Mrs. Swales laid up and cannot leave, and Mr. H. E. Essery, of Chaka's Kraal, has embodied some of his views in a letter I hand in to you.

Mr. W. A. Stocken, Mr. S. T. Amos and myself are representing the Durban and Coast Society of Agriculture and Industry, both as a sub-Committee and also as members of the General Committee of the Society and Executive Committee.

Apart from the suitability of this land (referring to the recommended area in Inanda Division, north of Umgeni River), there is just as big a question—certainly a more grave question—in the future expansion of the town of Durban. The municipality is too small as it is. In another 10 or 15 years they won't be able to expand, as there is only another 1,200 acres altogether for roads, buildings, public works, etc. They must naturally try to acquire other land outside the Borough boundary and this area north of the Umgeni lends itself admirably to the purpose.

Mr. W. A. STOCKEN.] I confirm what I said in my previous evidence. Since giving that evidence I have been approached with reference to the lands I hold on the farms mentioned on the Umgeni River by European dairymen who wish to start dairying there. The lots are on "Richmond" and "Sea Cow Valley." There has recently been a survey, this year, for a railway through the farm "Richmond."

It is only the bad roads which make all this land inaccessible for occupation. The soil is very rich. Sugar grows well there—very well. Harrison Bros. are gradually extending right down south.

By Mr. Chapman.] Some of the land was sold, by a forced sale, at £5 an acre, cash, about a year ago. With accumulated interest on the bonds I hold there is £2,500 out on 250 acres. I reckon it is worth £6 an acre in the open market. All this land is closer to the Borough than Pinetown.

By the Chairman.] I have thought of an irrigation scheme. Water could be taken to the top of the land and the whole lot could be put under irrigation.

I spoke of the lands there towards Goble's, in the Upper Tongaat, last time. It is lovely grazing land there.

By Mr. Chapman.] From Umgeni (the boundary of the Borough) to "Richmond" is about 8 miles. If the line went through "Richmond" certainly there is no question that the land would be taken up.

Mr. S. T. AMOS.] I only wish to confirm the evidence that I gave before. I think that covers all the ground that I wanted to speak about.

I would just mention here that since we met last time undoubtedly there is a tendency for men to take up dairying even more extensively than previously on the coast. I find that many Durban people—men that have work in the places like Parker, Wood & Co., Butchers, and other wholesale houses, are in addition to their ordinary vocation tending to keep a few cows and they are getting away into the coast lands. There are quite a number of small dairymen right along the coast. My evidence went to show that a very large portion of the land which was suggested to be put into the native area was undoubtedly very excellent dairying land.

Mr. Chapman.] Could you make dairying a profitable industry on the veld alone?

Mr. Amos.] Not on the veld alone. We have a dairy of 40 cows now. We put up our building, and we have 20 acres which we put under sweet potatoes and cane, but even that was not sufficient; we had to take a farm about 7 miles out to grow even more. The thing against dairying anywhere near Durban is the fodder bill which you have to foot every month. If we could produce bran locally you would find that dairying would go ahead 100 per cent. more than it is doing at present. Sweet potatoes are quite good. I am quite satisfied that no man could succeed in dairying here on the veld alone. I am anxious to see that lands capable of good dairying should be kept for us, because I am quite satisfied your native will never turn a dairyman.

It is inevitable that the people inside this town are going to be driven outside the Borough boundaries, and we are going to have a very big suburban population on the other side of the Umgeni. It has been well worked out at Bellair, Malvern, Sea View and so on towards Pinetown, which is a long run in the train, so it is going to make particularly for across the Umgeni, with the tramway facilities, and that land is going to be sought out very much for small holdings of 1 to 5 acre lots and more.

Mr. W. GROOM.] My farm is on the Inanda, adjoining the location right in the corner. It is about 280 acres in extent. I sold most of it to the Wattle Company.

All the top is good wattle land, but the lower is not. It is pretty fair on "Groeneberg," but lower down it is too sandy. I have shares in the company, and the wattles are doing well. The company has not paid any dividends yet. They are going to put up an extract plant there, and I think there is a possibility of their paying dividends when this plant is erected.

I have about 70 or 80 head of cattle, but I am not farming to any extent. The lower portion I think is the best for the natives. The high land needs manure. I have to manure or I would get nothing.

The natives seem to be wanting to work away in towns. The young fellows take their wives away and want to get near town, and the same with the sugar estates—they try to get as near as they can, and those who are doing so do not cultivate very much; they buy their food. Inland they do a lot of cultivating, but the seasons have been against them lately. I have been there about 57 years.

Mr. R. C. SAMUELSON.] I have come here not sent by anybody nor representing anybody in particular, but wishing to give the general views which I understand to be the views of the natives, and my ideas on the question. I am not a land-owner I have

some small portion in Maritzburg, but that is all—so I am not influenced in any direction as to the holding of land. My views are on the Bill generally and specially on the land.

I may state, to begin with, that the European has in this country a burden to bear—the white man's burden—and they are now beginning to take up that burden. That burden has been imposed on them by their having been trusted by the King of England to look after not only the Dominions here and the special interests of particular individuals, but the interests of all, including the natves, and I take it that those who are least protected should be looked after most. The burden we have taken over has its advantages and its disadvantages. We must shoulder both, and in shouldering both we must be entirely guided by the principles which made England great and on which England stands and has grown great. This great war which is going on is for certain principles which have ruled England always, and I say as a preliminary to what I am going to say that when we take up that question we must keep those principles distinctly in view before us and not be moved by any consideration from them. There are contracts between the English Government and the people of this country that are to be observed, and we are the ones who are to observe those contracts.

With regard to the Cape, the South Africa Act by Section 35 has protected the natives there, and all honour to those men who fought for that protection. There is also a protection which perhaps not many have seen, but which I will refer to, which had been provided for all the races of this country. The very fact of England with her principles taking over the governance of races such as these means that her principles are there, and that these people are going to be handled under those principles. That is a silent contract—a contract which, though not expressed in words, is there, but besides that the Proclamation of our late Queen Victoria, or rather the Proclamation issued during her reign in 1843, stands still on record, and we have to shoulder that if it is said that the natives other than those of the Cape are not protected, and we have no contract to carry out with regard to them.

I also draw your attention specially to Section 148 of the South Africa Act, which is specific on that. It shows that it was conserving the rights which existed before that; I may just read it:—

"All rights and obligations under any conventions or agreements which are binding on any of the Colonies shall devolve upon the Union at its establishment"—which means that the Union has taken over the contracts which existed, and the contract of England with her subject races is clear enough: they put it all equal: they do not differentiate against one in favour of the other of our children of England. Now that is a general principle and I will say nothing more, but I say this in conclusion: Let us beware what we do in these early stages of our occupation of this country lest we take such a step as would estrange for ever the native feeling from us. It is already very strained and suspicion is rife everywhere; let us beware that we do not take any step which is contrary to English principles of governing races; let us not be carried away when we have the power in our hands of sitting on the native. It is not only these people we have to deal with as at present, but with increasing numbers and increasing views in the future. We Britishers hope that Germans will never rule in this country again, and we are going to take over millions of natives. These have a common feeling and unless we beware they will say: "We are not going to be better off, therefore we will look out somewhere else."

With regard to the land question, I am one of those who entirely approve of the question being taken up. I think the Union Government have done well to take up the question, but it is simply: How are they going to take it up? What principle are they going to apply; what rights are going to be conserved and what rights taken away? That there be a re-adjustment is right. I won't call it separation or segregation, because those words cannot go down with them; I cannot understand that those words should be applied to fellow subjects, and separation and segregation have always underlined certain principles which do a great deal of wrong. I say the principle of taking up land and saying: "Native, that is what we are going to allow you to have for your own protection," is right, but we must also see that this said land is adequate. We must not allow ourselves to be influenced because some farmer on the line is to be inconvenienced, and the native therefore gets less land. I think if it is possible, that there should be more land, but I say at present before the last agitation took place—I think the provision with regard to Natal and Zululand is adequate.

I am not going into details as to where this land should be. The Commissioners have seen and have picked out places where the natives still are and where land has not been purchased by Europeans. I am dead against the Europeans being robbed of anything, but I say the fact that the natives are very much more numerous than the Europeans and their sole home is this land should be very carefully considered. They have not places like we have to go away to in other countries; they are here and they are going to increase, so we must be very careful to give them adequate land. There are certain divisions where adequate land has not been given, and it is the duty of the Government to get adequate land given there rather than reduce what has been set aside for the native. I refer to the Orange River Colony where there is a certain party saying: "We

won't allow this," and apparently the Government are doing nothing. I say we should press the Government to induce those people to give more land to the natives there, there to increase. They must overflow somewhere, and we don't want them to overflow from want of room into Natal. The argument should be this—we must supply sufficient land for all natives everywhere. In the Transvaal there are certain lands which are said to be not fit even for natives to live on. Well, I say the Transvaal ought to supply more.

Now with regard to Natal and Zululand particularly, so far as I have looked at the map it has simply followed where the natives are, and it has said: "There, natives, that is what we are setting aside for you so that you can purchase there, and there will be no Europeans." That is quite fair. We know the native has not had the brain to buy. We have left him alone and many of our men have purchased to such an extent that the native has been left in the lurch. So it is only right and just and the policy of an enlightened Government to provide land for these people in that way.

Although it seems to be a separation, I take it to be territorial re-adjustment. I won't use "separation" or "segregation" because they are words I hate to mention. Now there are people who say: "Why should more land be set aside for natives?" I say that is an argument of people who do not use their brains to think. Their view is that the natives have not used their land to advantage. It is simply our own fault—we have not taken them up and trained them so that they know how to use that land, and we have left them under their chiefs so that their tenancy is uncertain. Something happens and he is chucked out of that location or to some other part of it; he has no security whatever. They have not been encouraged in any way to do anything.

In addition to that, I may say this: that in Natal and Zululand almost, if not quite, half of the land is not fit for cultivation. Much of it is baboon country only, where natives would have to go 3 or 4 miles to get water, so in looking over the land we are not giving such an extraordinary amount of land to the natives. Those who are agitating to reduce it forget all this—that half the land at least is not fit for cultivation. What is our object? Is it not to give the natives a stake in the land so that they will be a contented people and progress and do the same as we? Is it not our duty to teach him this and leave him land, including sugar land, so that when they are able they can also plant sugar? I say it is the policy of the Government to leave some land open for these people which can be utilized, not to leave them these cast-away pieces. The European has got the eyes of the country already, no doubt; why should not the small portion remaining be left to the natives? I say also that we should look at the holdings of men who have grabbed land to the extent of even 100,000 acres and sit on them—men in Natal who own 5,000, 10,000 to 20,000 acres and sit on them. People argue, and rightly, that we should have immigration. Good! That we should have places for our soldiers to come back to. Good! Those people who have the land say nothing as to what land we should give away, but they say that what little we have set aside for the the natives should be reduced. That is wrong.

I know the feeling of the natives is very sore on the point. It may be, perhaps, they do not understand the whole situation and it will take them a long time to understand. I am not here to mince matters or offend anybody, but I say the feeling of the natives has been growing in greater and deeper distrust of the Europeans. They feel that they are a lost people, and that the Europeans care nothing for them, and it is about time that we take steps to get them back into the right lines. Now this feeling extends from the Cape to the Zambesi. I am a native linguist. I have been born here, and I can almost feel the feelings of the native. I grew up in Zululand, and I know how the feelings of the natives have changed every year, from first good to bad, and now bad to worse. This is a critical moment and we have to be careful. I do not say you have to be afraid, but you must be wise men. We have the power to sit on these people, but we are not going to utilize it. They are a fine asset. They are a fine people. They are a loyal people—more loyal than some of our Europeans, far and away. They are biding the time when they will get justice, and I hope they will.

I think any Britisher will blush at the provision with regard to tenancy on farms. Here in Natal and Zululand we have over 400,000 natives who were bought over with the farms and whose ancestors' graves are there with their homes, and there they have had the right to arrange their tenancy with their landlords as they pleased in the past, and so have all those who have come into the country—it does not matter what colour, what language, what creed: they have all been allowed. The Indian has been given many more rights with regard to land than the natives. But tenancy is ruled out: that is what is going to be interfered with, and that has been exercising their minds. I am, forsooth, not allowed to pay my tenancy by money, cattle or produce! Is that applied to any other member of the community? What is the meaning? It simply means that these natives are going to be turned into slaves, nothing less. Families will be broken up. They will have to gravitate into the native area.

Mr. Chapman points out that the evidence is really beyond the scope of their enquiry, and would be best represented to Mr. Samuelson's member or to the Select Committee.

Mr. Samuelson.] My member, unfortunately, cannot have my views, and these views will never get on record.

I say the natives of the Cape, the natives of Natal and the natives of the Transvaal had the right to buy and purchase land and sell anywhere and to anybody, and nobody has a right to deprive them of that, and I say the principle of the Act governing the Cape natives should be extended to all natives and not limited.

By Mr. Chapman.] Where would you obtain the additional land to give to the natives?

Mr. Samuelson.] You have the lands which have not been purchased by the natives, such as locations and mission reserves, and also the lands in Zululand which were not taken over by the sugar planters. I think it would be absolutely wrong to make any deduction of the sugar or other farms in Zululand, but the balance should be secured. Cannot the Government acquire lands by an expropriation law and reduce those huge holdings? There is one case in the Transvaal of 100,000 acres. In Natal some people have 30,000 or 40,000 acres. Some land is held by companies. Well, that land will have to be broken up for immigrants or returned soldiers, who have the first call, and the balance could be applied to making provision for the natives.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think the purchasing power of the native is greater than it used to be?

Mr. Samuelson.] Well, I think it is more, but they do not know how to exercise it. That is why I have said in my writings the lands that the natives hold should be cut up into areas—so much for so many, with arable land which he would use and be allowed to purchase. I should say 4 acres per hut, if properly handled, of arable land would be a liberal supply. I have not thought it out, but I have agitated many times that they should get security of tenure and be taught how to handle these lands. You would then find a different people at once.

I know the Transkei principle a little. I have read about it, and I thought it rather a good idea. It would be a good thing to introduce the policy here, but I presume that natives will also be educated in agriculture and so forth at schools, also in handicrafts, so that they can help themselves in their own places in the locations?

I think the idea of a Native Land Board is a move in the right direction. It ought to satisfy the natives. If I was a native I should thank you. It is a protection by the Government.

As regards their holding the land subject to good behaviour, although I am dead against rebellion that principle should not be brought in. Those wretched fellows who rebelled—they were not deprived of their land, and in no part of the world have people been deprived of their land because of rebellion. They have been punished. I think the principle of letting them acquire land and remain on it subject to good behaviour is not right.

Mr. Chapman.] You would be prepared to expropriate land from Europeans for native purposes?

Mr. Samuelson.] Well, if it can be done justly. I do not believe in dealing unjustly with anybody. If there is a general Expropriation Bill applied to all parts of the Union —all right, if it is a fair Bill. We all have to submit to it for the general convenience of the Union.

Mr. Chapman.] For the sake of argument, let us take the Inanda area.

Mr. Samuelson.] I say it is not fair. If the Europeans had been in possession of it and bought it and have titles to it, then they should not be expropriated except at their own wish. They must be protected in that their land will not depreciate. There should be before the Bill is passed some arrangement by which lands such as these should be valued for the purpose of expropriation, if necessary.

The Chairman.] You spoke just now of land in Zululand—land which had not been taken over by the sugar planters.

Mr. Samuelson.] I admit that what they have taken over were Crown lands which were set aside by the Saunders-Dartnell Commission, but I do not say interfere with those people who have holdings. But what is left now they should not be anxious to deduct it from the land for natives.

The Chairman.] Do you think the remainder of land which has not been given to white settlers should be given to natives?

Mr. Samuelson.] Yes, that is my idea.

The Chairman.] Don't you think the Europeans would make a much better pioneer there in the fever districts?

Mr. Samuelson.] It may be for the moment, but as soon as you show these people that you are going to help them they are going to take up those lands. There is not a single native with a sugar farm.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think they would go to the low country parts like the Pongolo Valley?

Mr. Samuelson.] But would the European have gone there—to the Pongolo—for living?

Mr. Chapman.] No, but for sugar farming?

Mr. Samuelson.] There are so many educated natives who are starting in a small way to grow sugar, and I am perfectly satisfied when the educated natives begin to find they have a chance they will do just as well as the Europeans.

Mr. Chapman.] You think they will be able to grow sugar successfully?

Mr. Samuelson.] I have no doubt the native will be able to grow sugar in the proper manner. I think it is part of the burden of the Union to educate them more in this manner—to complete their education.

The Chairman.] Why don't they grow sugar in the reserves now?

Mr. Samuelson.] Simply because they have not the means to do it; they have not any means yet.

The Chairman.] Don't you think it would be better to let the white man give them the means—as it is at present, where a native has a chance of working for the white man?

Mr. Samuelson.] No, I don't think so. It is all right from one point of view, but you must provide for the future as well as the present. The native is being educated; the native is looking forward to avenues of gain. They must have some opening, and where are they going unless you leave openings now?

The Chairman.] Do you think, if the land was left open in Zululand to-day, any of them would take it up and make a success of it?

Mr. Samuelson.] If they are allowed to take it up as syndicates, then they will, but a single individual has no money and cannot do it.

The Chairman.] How many syndicates have failed?

Mr. Samuelson.] I would not pretend to say syndicates have not failed, but I know some syndicates for the purchase of land which have succeeded, such as "Driefontein" and also in Newcastle Division, where the natives have made a success.

The Chairman.] That is two, but how many have failed?

Mr. Samuelson.] How many children have fallen on their knees when they began to walk? The natives also are children, and we must help them when they begin to walk.

Mr. Chapman points out that in Reserve 21 in Zululand, where they have every opportunity for sugar cultivation, the natives have done nothing.

Mr. Samuelson.] You put a lot of immigrants from England there without any money, without any help or protection—what will be the result? Exactly the same. They will stay there and scratch about to live. They won't do any more, and so we find it among our own farmers—some of them have large areas: they scratch one corner and live on the rest. We must not only point to the native. The native is poor in initiative and the knowledge of doing things. He has a brain, but it requires working. You must not only think of the present; you must think of the future. The native is coming on, and if the native sees you will help him he will advance.

Mr. Marwick.] You dislike the idea of segregation—the principle of putting natives into black areas and the whites into white areas?

Mr. Samuelson.] In that sense of segregation I do not object, but the word "segregation" has never been defined and when it is on record it may be translated to mean anything. What I object to are the different results of that segregation, for one—with regard to tenancy of land, and for two—new Courts are to be created which are not intended to work together with the Courts for the natives in other parts of the Union which are not in native areas.

Mr. Marwick.] With regard to the settlement of the land, are you opposed to there being large black areas and large white areas?

Mr. Samuelson.] No, I am with you.

Mr. Marwick.] Are there not a considerable number of people who think the native would advance better if the Europeans were allowed to live not exactly amongst them but in close proximity to those areas, and the native areas should not be continuously large blocks?

Mr. Samuelson.] And so I agree. If the European is alongside it is for the advantage of the native, but I argue that if the lands are not set aside for them so that they can go along and buy there they will be ousted entirely. They will have no land. Some time back, when that Commission in Zululand had sat and delimited, families of natives from Amatikulu and up there had to clear off from that part. I saw them myself leaving.

Mr. Marwick.] Was that not in consequence of their having to move from land which was taken up by Europeans?

Mr. Samuelson.] It had not been taken up by them. They were moved because it was to be taken up. What I am driving at is this: what is to prevent people from buying the balance of land which has not been purchased by the natives and which may be used for them, leaving nothing to be acquired?

Mr. Marwick.] What is your strongest objection to the Saunders-Dartnell Commission's delimitation? Don't you think the land they set apart for the natives was reasonably sufficient for them as they stand to-day.

Mr. Samuelson.] No, I do not think so, because the Zululand natives are not standing still—they are increasing every time, and our Natal natives will go over there to Zululand and take up also. There must be room for them to go in there, and I say certainly there is not too much.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think, generally, the native locations in Natal are sufficient for the natives?

Mr. Samuelson.] No more especially for the reason that I have mentioned that quite half of them are not fit for cultivation. They are more what can be called baboon country.

Mr. Marwick.] Compared with the other Colonies, is Natal's delimitation generous or otherwise?

Mr. Samuelson.] I think generous, more generous at any rate than the Orange River Colony, which does not count, and more generous than the Transvaal, but not more generous than the Cape. Here, in Natal, we must remember that the European population is about 120,000 and those are the people that are to be considered. The Indians have their country to go back to.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you more likely to serve the public interests by locking up the whole of the lands in Zululand for, say, 50 years until the native awakens to the usefulness of the land, or rendering it available for European immigration so that we hold our own against the other Provinces of the Union?

Mr. Samuelson.] That is another point. I say if that provision for immigration was temporary, i.e. leasehold, and that the land could revert to the natives when the native is fit for them, I say yes to that.

The Chairman.] What would you do with the people who have had this land all that time?

Mr. Samuelson.] I say do not let them have it. In 25 years time, if the Government encourages the natives and helps them, you will see different things. On that point of getting stronger by immigration, I would be only too glad to see it, but that must not weigh with us in reducing the avenues and chances of the natives, because they are there and we cannot drive them out of the land.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you not rather giving them more than they need by maintaining that the whole of Zululand must be locked up for them?

Mr. Samuelson.] I say all the remainder—all that which is not occupied by whites and sold to them. I say it is not too much. Before the Saunders-Dartnell Commission the country had been harried, first by the Zulu War and then by subsequent disturbances, and in the direction by Melmoth down towards Empangeni, Sibepu had laid the country waste, slaughtering men, women and children. I know it, because my father's home was at Inkwenkwe, in the Umhlatusi Valley. There was great reduction of population, but since then the natives have increased and are increasing, and we must provide for that increase. In the Union I understand the sum total of what is reserved for the natives, who are at least four and a half million, is under 20 million morgen and what is left to the Europeans is 123 million morgen. Now, see the vast disproportion—calculate what is coming on later. Where are these natives going to live? Where are you going to provide for contingencies? It will mean that the natives will be a floating population.

Mr. Chapman corrects the witness regarding statistics furnished.

The Chairman.] How many of these natives are going to be tradesmen and workers, who will not want land to cultivate, but only dwelling places?

Mr. Samuelson.] To answer you I say the natives have been carefully kept out of buying any land in towns.

I know that in Maritzburg there were natives who said: "Our women folk like to go to some respectable place. There is no place of our own. Cannot you get us some place where we can buy and have our own boarding-houses and hotels?" I do not mean they should be allowed anywhere, but in a convenient place where they can come and go when they come in from the country to the towns.

Senator the Hon. F. O. F. CHURCHILL.] I want to supplement the evidence I gave in Cape Town for this reason: that there were one or two points upon which I could not be very positive, because I had never gone up to the Berg with this Bill in my mind. This time I had this particular point in my mind and was noting various things, and I now want to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" in one or two places.

For forestry purposes, in addition to water conservation, I am now convinced that the Drakensberg is eminently suited on the lower slopes, and I want to ask either your Committee or the Parliamentary Committee which takes it up again to particularly call the Conservator of Forests for Natal, Mr. Henkel. No doubt you have noticed there is a little hesitation on the part of officials in tendering evidence unless they are asked. I do not think you should call him until he has had time to go to the Giant's Castle Game Reserve, where he wishes to see trees put in ten or twelve years ago, to see which varieties are doing well. That would enable him to supplement his evidence and make it more complete.

The next point I want to mention is that I may have done the natives a slight injustice in that I said the natives do not make any use at all of these slopes. I find this time they do make a little use of them for spring grazing, so I modify my previous statement: they do make a little use of the slopes, though not amounting to much.

If forests were planted there it would create an opening for native labour—there would be work on the spot for those men who wanted it, and in that way it would be an indirect help to the natives to have forests.

Another point, which I learned from a doctor, is that you have to tackle the question of phthisis and consumption amongst natives sooner or later. All the doctors say that pine forests are undoubtedly the places for consumption camps, so there again forestry would help.

Then I was able to notice, with regard to erosion, that whenever the bush is cut away down the banks of streams the streams change their course. We have an extraordinary illustration of it herein the Umbilo and the Umhlatuzana: when I was a boy the banks of these streams were bushed, and now that it is removed the rivers spread their banks for 100 yards or so, sweeping all before them, as we have all seen recently. I want to emphasise that.

Again—I mentioned it in my evidence then—there is the question of pollution of streams. All locations to some extent tend a little bit to pollute the rivers—not to any great extent, but if they became congested it would be more. So I want to see the Berg, this gatherer of waters, as it were, free from pollution, and if it were a forest reserve that would be the case.

These little points which I overlooked in my former evidence I wished to make clear to-day.

By Mr. Chapman.] I made particular enquiry of all the white men there as to the character of the soil and they were all unanimous that the soil is very poor there and that cultivation is very precarious. When there is a drought in Natal they have their best seasons. In a normal rainy year they say things do not come to maturity there. None of that land is really suitable for agriculture.

Report of meeting held in Durban on 7th December, 1917, by the Chief Native Commissioner, at which the Chairman and Members of the Natives' Land Committee were present.

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G., Chief Native Commissioner, Natal, introduced the Committee to the assembly and stated they would be listening to the replies.

Chief STEPHEN MINI.] In the first place, the Chiefs wish to return thanks to you for having summoned them together here in this manner to-day. The people are confident that you will hear them patiently, because apart from your own experience, Sir, in handling natives we know your father, who for many years administered the affairs of the black people in this country. The Chiefs say this is a great matter which has been placed before them to-day, and is only part of that great matter which has been before the country during the last four troublous years. But, Sir, during those years the native people have not had such a suitable opportunity as they have to-day of expressing their views in regard to this matter. The Chiefs wish to thank you, Sir, for having impressed on them that in considering this matter they must look at it not only from their own personal point of view, but view it from a broader point of view in the light of the great future, because it will not only touch them, but also generations to come.

The people realise, Sir, that the main principle of the matter now before them is simply this: that the white man wishes to live in an area by himself and the black man in an area by himself, similarly; that the white man shall have only his own area where he may buy and the black man his areas where he may buy—a principle, Sir, that is quite different from that to which we have been accustomed during the past 70 and more years. For that reason, Sir, we would wish to ask that the white men who are handling this matter realise that is is indeed no small matter.

I just wish to refer to this question of territorial separation of white and black. We realise, Sir, that the white man shall have areas where those who have come with him into this country may have the privilege of buying, and in referring to those who have come with him I wish to mention the Indians. We realise also that it is intended that the black man shall be confined to his areas where only he may buy and deal in land. In considering that aspect of the matter, Sir, in precisely the same manner as I have described it to you, the Chiefs are entirely unanimous in their opinion. They say with one voice that they do not want territorial separation, because they feel it is bad. What they say they do wish to have is the old law of Queen Victoria, now over 70 years old—the one under which they had been living in the past—in place of the proposed law. Instead of being territorially separated from the white man they prefer to live in areas occupied by the white man in precisely the same way as we have done in the past. They wish that the black man shall have the privilege of buying land in European areas and that, on the other hand, the white man shall have the privilege of buying land in native areas. They are unconvinced, Sir, by the explanation, which tends to prove that the native would be protected by having separate areas. They say the proposal now placed

before them is contrary to the Proclamation of Queen Victoria. They say, Sir, they do not wish to budge an inch in departing from the law of the Great Mother—one under which they have been living for these many years past.

They also view with disfavour, Sir, the proposal in the Bill that no company consisting of more than five natives to buy land will be recognised, and ask how possibly could such a limited number of natives as five buy land, seeing that ordinary natives get such poor pay when working for the white man. They say they find no such provision affecting white areas, but, on the contrary, find that it is proposed that such a thing shall be introduced in the native areas.

In regarding the whole Bill, Sir, the people cannot help feeling that the main aim of it is to secure labour, but in that respect the native people feel that what has been the practice in the past should continue to be the practice in the future—that the natives should be privileged to go and seek work without being limited or restricted in any way, just as they have done hitherto. That he who is not able to satisfy his native servant and keep him contented shall accordingly lose the services of that native. The natives also view with disfavour the proposal *re* labour tenants—tenants who not only as kraal-heads shall render labour, but also their wives and children shall be tied to the landlord. The Chiefs simply describe that as nothing more or less than slavery. The Chiefs also view with disfavour the position relating to the native who aspires to be a free man in a white area: the native who wishes to pay rent for the privilege of living in those areas. It is provided in the Bill that in respect of such tenants certain fees shall be payable, viz.: £1 for the first year, £2 for the second year, and £3 for the third year. The Chiefs say, Sir, that that also is nothing but slavery.

Without wishing to waste your time further, Sir, I wish to emphasise very strongly that all the people present and those they represent say very strongly that they do not wish this proposed Bill to become law. They say that in their opposition to it, Sir, they will not be satisfied with merely opposing it here, but they will oppose it by going to Parliament and further, if necessary, by going to their own King oversea. These loyal children of the King ask, Sir, what wrong have they done, what fault have they committed, that this matter should now be proposed. They ask, Sir, who among them has come forward and asked that this measure should be imposed upon them.

In regard to the proposed Commission, consisting of from three to five members, the natives are unanimous in expressing their wish that that also should not be introduced, but that their magistrates, with whom they are quite satisfied, should continue to exercise jurisdiction under, as at present, the instructions of the Chief Native Commissioner. They are quite satisfied to leave their matters to the jurisdiction of their Chiefs, and beyond that to the jurisdicton of their magistrates.

The people beg, Sir, that they shall be free everywhere; that, as in the past, they shall not be restricted in living on private lands in the same way as they have done during these past many years. They do not know why it should be sought to make friction between landlords and their native tenants. Why should that be desired at all?

The natives also beg, Sir, that their existing locations may be extended, also the reserves, under the old Proclamation of the Queen. People cling to that Proclamation of the Queen as their heritage—that Proclamation which it is now sought to rob them of.

The Rev. JOHN DUBE.] We are happy to be before you to-day, to eat nuts, as it were. We know that you are a pleasant man with the natives—the Basutos received you favourably; the Zulus received you favourably.

In the very first place, when we saw this Bill published in the "Government Gazette" we took a dislike to it straight away. That, Sir, was four years ago. The first thing that we regarded with disfavour was the proposal that natives should not be permitted to hire land from the white man, and also that there should be restrictions in regard to natives coming to arrangements with white people about leasing portions of their farms and sharing profits. We were frightened by the provision that a native might not buy land from a white man. We were at a total loss as to the party then from whom we might thereafter buy land, because we have only been in the habit of buying it from you white people. Moreover, not only on that account, but simply because the natives had no places in which land might be bought and disfavour grew bigger when we saw the proposal to separate territorially the areas, finding that it was proposed that you white people, whose population number one million, should have 122 million morgen set aside for your occupation and that we black people, whose population number 5½ million, should get only 22 million morgen of land. That 22 million morgen of land was not new virgin land where we might have gone and prospered, but land already occupied. In those areas making up this 22 millon morgen of land we find that there had been living in many parts of them people for generations past; it was land which we people had occupied for years. Then we cast our eyes on the areas occupied by the white people. We found that there are 500,000 natives on private lands in the Natal Province, and in viewing the proposed native areas—seeing them marked out on the maps (those areas which had been recommended by the Commission over which Sir William Beaumont presided)—we began to wonder how those 500,000 natives were to be accommodated on them, even if it were proposed to pack them as closely as one finds sardines are packed

LIBRARY

closely together in a tin. It is abundantly clear to us, Sir, that the authorities know perfectly well the natives cannot leave private lands entirely, because it is very hard for a native to leave his homeland and go to a strange country. We find that illustrated by the natives of the Free State. They are people who live under very irksome conditions—people who have actually to use the dung of stock to make their fires—and will not leave those irksome conditions to live here in Natal, where they would be freer and use ordinary firewood for thier fires. We see, therefore, Sir, that the Bill simply aims at compelling the natives to say they will rather remain on farms and live under those irksome conditions than to leave the farms and go and live in those distant places where they would be overcrowded and perhaps suffer from fever and other troubles.

In our surprise on contemplating this Bill we ask what wrong have we done to the white people, to our white masters to whom we have clung so loyally and whom we love so much. We find, Sir, that all the peoples whom you have introduced to this country or allowed to come and settle here are treated more favourably than the natives of the country themselves. Here am I, a native of this country—I have not the right to buy a single acre of land, but other black people—some of them, perhaps, with long hair; others, perhaps, with ruddy complexions—have that right. Is it not clear then, Sir, that you love these strangers from far countries more than the natives of this land. We see no opening before us in this matter. We only see ultimately, Sir, friction between the white and black. Let us for a moment say that you were doing a good thing by this law. That being the case, you would have gone to the middle of the country where its extremes would have been equally distant to you and would have made a straight line right up to Mashonaland. You would have then said: "We white people will take south of that line; you black people take north of it." In that case, Sir, we would certainly have seen that you were attempting something to our benefit. But, in my opinion, you would even then have been stirring up trouble because in leaving us black people to ourselves in areas apart you would only be laying up trouble—making war between the black and the white.

Let us for a moment consider the proposed native areas—those areas which look like so many pig-sties scattered over the country side where you wish to send us people. If then, Sir, you aim at treating us favourably at benefiting us by doing that—why follow us up with such a multitude of laws? Why not leave us to be governed by our own people, tribally or otherwise? It is proposed, Sir, that we shall be removed from the good laws of the British and placed under the laws of the Council of from 3 to 5 men—laws simply made according to their feelings and wishes. That looks to us like a retrograde step. It aims at pushing us back 100 years. We say that, Sir, because the idea is to appoint white men who, although they have no rights in regard to the land in native areas, are nevertheless to exercise jurisdiction administratively in those areas. We see that from that the idea is quite clear to set us back. Government by Proclamation does not please us at all, Sir. We want the laws which are written down in the Statute —laws which will govern a people who aim at progressing in the world and at advancement.

Speaking to you personally, Sir, sitting at the table, we know that if you had the making of such laws (Government by Proclamation) you would make acceptable laws, but let us say, Sir, a person were to succeed you who was not as suitable as you were—a man, perhaps, who had not much regard for the natives—his laws would inevitably be bad laws.

Moreover, in these native areas we would not have the right which is given to us at present of protesting against irksome or oppressive laws.

Most of the people here, Sir, are troubled by the conditions on farms. It is a great complaint amongst the people of Natal—the rent that they have to pay to their landlord—but, Sir, we are told that by this proposed measure that complaint will be done away with, because the natives will be given native areas. But, Sir, we have not seen those areas; they have not been pointed out to us. You have summoned us here to-day before you, but not a single one thinks to say that you have called him up and said that such and such areas are those which it is proposed to set aside for the natives. Some of the Chiefs whom you see in front of you are paying at the present time Crown land rent at the rate of £2 per hut. In the same way on farms. Some of them are living on mission reserves. Whilst on this subject I should like to ask you a question, Sir: why is it that natives who have enlightenment, who have embraced Christianity, should be required to pay so much rent whilst natives living on locations do not have to pay so much rent? I do not ask for an immediate reply; I merely mention it because it is a great complaint amongst the natives—the rent they have to pay. It is the Proclamations in that connection, Sir, of which we are greatly afraid, because they would govern conditions in the proposed areas. It will be said that those areas are for the natives in exactly the same way as the native reserves are administered. The natives are told that they hold them in trust, but nevertheless they have to pay rent and even have to pay it in advance. We feel, Sir, that in the proposed areas much the same thing will happen; that natives will be told they will have to pay rent there too because they are living in native areas. All these matters cause us to regard this measure with disfavour,

Speaking personally, Sir, I have made a careful study of the maps bearing on this matter. I find that in the Transvaal the proposed native areas consist of extremely broken, stony ground. We also find, Sir, that although you have told us it is aimed at giving us certain rights and privileges, we, in fact, will not have such rights and privileges, because although Councils are to be appointed under the Bill, we do not see what right or jurisdiction they will exercise or how far their powers will carry. We have no experience in the matter. We would have been better pleased, Sir, if among the proposed Council say, two had been proposed to have been natives and the remaining three were to be white men. It is all these considerations, Sir, which prompt all your people to say they do not want this Bill. If it becomes law it will be imposed on us over our heads against our will. We are confident, Sir, that these representations of ours will be communicated by you to General Botha, and eventually will be placed before Parliament itself.

Chief MARTIN LUTULI.] I only stand up, Sir, because I have been chosen to speak. Our two spokesmen who have already spoken have covered the whole ground. If I were to follow what they said I should merely be wasting time. I have just one short question to ask, Sir—a question, perhaps, which you might reply to—What has gone wrong? Where has anything gone wrong? Although, Sir, it is a question that perhaps you may not reply to just now, it is a question that we native people wish to put. You see me standing before you, Sir. I am a man 70 years of age. I was born under British rule here in this country and have lived under that rule up to this day. It is in consideration of that long period—those 70 years—which prompts me to ask why to-day am I being thrown out of the home of my father and mother. It is that very same consideration, Sir, which prompts your native children to say: "What is there behind this measure?" Surely it must be something evil. In viewing the whole measure, Sir, we cannot help feeling, although we do not know, that the source of this law is not in the homes of our own—of the British. Of course, Sir, we are quite satisfied that the British would not impose such an important and great measure as this on their children. We cannot find that the British in all their conquests of coloured people have ever governed any of their conquered people in the manner in which it is now proposed to govern us. It is that, Sir, which impells us to say to you that it is not the British who have hatched this law. It is not they who have proposed to place on us such irksome burdens. It must be someone else who has asked them to bring this forward. My experience, Sir, is that, judging from what I have seen in this country, when a Britisher gets a family the first thing he does is to leave the care of his children to black nurses. In the case of male children, those male children are looked after by the native servants when they, too, become married men, and in the case of female children right up to the time of their marriage also. When the children have married, their parents—their white parents—seek native servants who may continue that process. Why? Because they have confidence in them. But to-day, Sir, it is proposed that we shall be separated from our homes and our parents. What has gone amiss? I do not know who can reply to that question of ours.

I cannot speak for other parts of South Africa, but speaking for Natal, we find there are two or three kinds of natives here. There are those who are exempt from the operation of native law; there are those who are converts to Christianity, and there are those who are not converts, but who it is expected under the rule of the British, will eventually become converts. What then, Sir, is the exemption or the operation of native law—what does it really bring about? If a man in my position were to take a plurality of wives now I should simply be thrown into jail—I should not be speaking here. But, Sir, if I am to be taken away, to be removed to a distant place, will it not happen when I get there I will commit the fault of taking a plurality of wives? Who will have given me that right? Our "Amakosi." The proposal to remove the people to distant places—to take away the "kolwa" population from their pleasant present places of residence—I do not think that that is a thing which is proposed by the British Government. Why, Sir? Because by removing us to such places you will be pushing us back, as one of my friends said, 100 years. These people whom you see before you to-day, whom the missionaries are trying to make converts to Christianity, would get completely out of touch with Christianity; they would never hear of it.

These are our objections to this measure which proposes to separate the people—the black people and the white people who have lived together amicably in the past here in Natal. You white people know that this country of Natal has a hot climate and that in the cool of the evening your ladies and daughters go out for drives in the fresh air in their conveyances, but if your natives are removed who will drive those conveyances for them? Have you ever heard that a native, Sir, has in that way been driving your ladies that on their return they complain of the manner in which the natives have carried out their work, saying that the natives did anything which was unseemly? Personally, I have never heard of it. I have nothing to add to what has been said by the previous speakers. I just wish to conclude by telling you what is the wish of the whole gathering present. We say this measure is bad, and that if the authorities listen to our representations they will drop it. But if the "Amakosi" are not to hear our representations,

speaking for myself, the Government of the Transvaal and the Free State is strange to me. We of Natal therefore ask that we be allowed to continue living under the law under which we have lived for the past 70 years quite contentedly. Leave us to live with our masters in contentment and peace. That is the last word I have to speak, Sir, to represent as strongly as I can that if this Bill is to become law, then let Natal be excluded. We do not know whether it is the wish of the white people in Natal that we should be territorially separated. If it is their wish we do not know what we have done to deserve such treatment.

The men wish me to say just one more thing: the people wish to represent that on Crown lands and in reserves they are losing their stock through the same being seized to satisfy judgments of Court to pay rents.

Chief KAMANGA.] We appreciate the words which have been spoken by the previous speakers. They have represented very fully what we had instructed them to say to you. The question which we all ask, Sir, is what wrong have we committed this year in this matter, which has already been before this country for four years without the natives having been consulted? The views which have been represented by the previous speakers, Sir, are those of everyone of those whom you see here present. You see me, an old man, standing here before you: I am one who grew up at this very place. I was here before the white people came to Durban, but it is now proposed that in my old age I shall be removed from this my home. I know no other place. I know no roads except the roads of Durban and in the environs of Durban.

I am glad to see the Chief Native Commissioner here. I did not know him before, although I knew his father very well at Greytown. If the white people are tired of this country, Sir, and for that reason propose this territorial segregation, we wish to say that we natives are certainly not tired of it. Leave us to live where we have been living for generations past.

Touching mission reserves—when the missionary came to this country he came with a message that he had brought to the black people enlightenment and wanted to bring up our children in the way of civilization, but to-day we find ourselves deserted by those very men who professed themselves to be men of God. They are to-day seizing our property The authorities to whom we had trusted so much in the past have to-day agreed to something which is very objectionable: they have allowed the missionary to perform certain acts which in our view are more pestilential than was the rinderpest in our cattle kraals.

Chief MKWANTSHI.] We merely wish to express our appreciation of the words which have already been spoken to you, Sir. When the British came to this country they came in the lifetime of our fathers. Our fathers came from Zululand. Captain Smith came here from the Cape and found a detachment in possession. There was a fight here, at this very place of Durban. Captain Smith entrenched himself at night time. Our fathers stole the cattle of the Boers and took them to the British trenches. The British then sent word to their helpers; help in due course arrived, and the Boers were driven off. Our fathers lived with the British and that state of affairs has continued to this very day. We do not know what it is, Sir, which is causing us to-day to be driven away from our homeland and from our fathers, the British. We fully understand, Sir, and appreciate your explanation of this proposed territorial separation of the races. We should have been very hurt if it had been brought about without its having been explained to us. All these black heads, these wards of yours, Sir, are at a loss to understand what wrong they have committed to-day. They suspect that there is another people—people who are not British—who have been approaching the British in this regard. We do not know why we should be separated from our fathers, the British; indeed, we do not want to be separated from them. When the British were fighting with the Boers at Tugela, the British were shown by a black man which way to cross the river; they crossed it and were successful in driving off the Boers. It was a native also, Sir—if I hear correctly—who showed the British the way into Ladysmith during the siege. We say we do not know what wrong we have committed. That is all we have to say. All we ask is that we be given locations so that we may carry out our duties and obey the laws of the Government.

Report of meeting held at Richmond, Natal, on 9th January, 1918.

Present: Mr. J. S. Marwick and the Secretary.

Mr. JOHN MARWICK.] I wish to reiterate and emphasise the fact that I am of opinion that the locations are not being used to the fullest extent, or anything like it, and that they would hold double the population if they were properly arranged.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] What is your opinion about the economy of land in regard to

kraal sites is that likely to be achieved by allowing the natives to have smaller kraals or by insisting on larger kraals?

Mr. John Marwick.] I should insist on larger kraals. It will help in more ways than the economy of land. It will help to prevent thieving if they were living in larger communities. Those fellows who put a hut on the side of a hill very seldom do it for any good object when he establishes himself like that.

Mr. J. S. Marwick.] Then the proposal of the Government to allow natives to have smaller kraals than those they have hitherto insisted on of four huts will not be favoured by the farming community?

Mr. John Marwick.] No, not at all.

Mr. W. COMRIE, J.P.] I am still strongly of opinion that I consider before any further land is laid off for native occupation a committee should have been appointed to report on the present locations, to see if the object for which they were laid off has been carried out satisfactorily or otherwise. Speaking personally, I am not in favour of the Act at all.

Mr. Marwick.] In this district do the natives earn their living by work in the district or do they go to labour centres to any extent?

Mr. Comrie.] I think a large number work for their landlords; certainly at least 50 per cent. of the natives living on private farms work on those farms.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there a decrease in pastoral pursuits on the part of the natives?

Mr. Comrie.] The cattle have increased very considerably since tick fever, in fact they are becoming a trouble.

It means if this Act is carried out strictly it is going to be a very uphill game for a well-to-do native to find any place. I mean to say that to live on a private farm practically means they must live as servants—there is no provision made for a rent-payer. It seems to me rather rough luck, and I wish to emphasise my feeling as regards our two coloured races here—that while we are dealing with the natives in this particular way we are allowing the other coloured section (the Asiatic) to acquire land wherever he pleases, and I consider it is absolutely wrong to do such a thing.

Mr. Marwick.] Are the natives in this district ready for any scheme of closer settlement such as is in vogue in the Transkei? How would they adapt themselves to a scheme of closer settlement?

Mr. Comrie.] I think that is bound to come and while they naturally like lots of room I think it is bound to come. Even now on many private farms the kraals are placed pretty close together.

Mr. A. H. COCKBURN.] I have nothing else to say except to support Mr. Comrie with regard to locations. I certainly think far more use could be made of locations than at present, if they had white men supervising them. The natives would then be put into closer settlement and the land would be worked properly. They could have their lots in one part and the grazing in the other. As it is at present the locations are not being used as they should be at all. The indunas, headmen and some of the "big bugs" get certain portions of the location and the other fellows cannot get anything—they stop other natives from ploughing and using the land for cultivation or grazing. The feeling I have is that the locations could carry twice the natives on them at present. Of course, I am absolutely against the Bill altogether, apart from my farm being demarcated. The way the Bill is at present I am quite against it, although I do not doubt that something has to be done eventually.

There are Kafirs in the locations, very many, who never work at all, and never have worked, some of them, but still I think that Mr. Comrie's 50 per cent. estimate is correct.

Mr. Marwick.] To what extent will the restrictive provisions of the Act, which lay down that practically no one may live on a farm unless he is continuously employed, affect the natives in this district. Will it affect a large number or not?

Mr. Cockburn.] Well, yes, it will disturb rather a large number. The natives would not come under the category of being "continuously employed all the year round." There are rent-paying natives who have been there all their lives; they will have to go; they cannot be retained on the farm. At present we do not wish them to be driven off.

Mr. Marwick.] Do they render labour and pay rent as well?

Mr. Cockburn.] Yes, both, and receive wages for their labour. The conditions suit both the natives and the landlord.

Mr. Marwick.] On private farms in this division would you say there was a large number of natives who could be termed "squatters"—who pay rent and manage to live on their wits?

Mr. Cockburn.] Not on the farms. There might be some, but on most of the farms which are being occupied—no; and the number of unoccupied farms is being reduced every day, so that the squatting evil does not exist in this division to any appreciable extent. It is getting less every year as the farms are all being taken up.

Mr. John Marwick.] I wish to raise attention to the definition of "servant." I consider that the definition of the word "servant" should be that the man works six months for his landlord. It will come perhaps by and by that we will get a man to work twelve months, but at present they think they have done their duty and more

when they have worked six months in the year. The description of labour tenant is a correct version of what is a servant. I do not think there is anybody keeps natives for their good looks; they keep them for the services they get out of them.

NATIVE EVIDENCE.

After a preliminary meeting two spokesmen were elected by the assembly and their speeches are given below.

Chief MQOLOMBENI.] There is not much to say beyond this: that it is a matter of surprise to us that the Government should again call us with regard to this matter, which we have discussed only yesterday at Maritzburg. We have only to say that our views were fully represented at Maritzburg and were recorded.

The recommended area which has been indicated in the neighbourhood of Inhlazuka consists of precipices and the available land is densely occupied by natives. If that area were recommended for the further occupation of natives it would be useless for that purpose. The principle which we find a difficult one is this principle of separating the Europeans from the natives. Persons who have quarrelled are those who have to be separated: in what way have we, the two races, quarrelled?

We had hoped that the Committee would have indicated to us some locations upon which those natives who have been ejected by their landlords could resort, and we had hoped that each chief would have had his own location. We adhere to what we stated at Maritzburg that the proposed law is one to which we strongly object and complain about. That is all I have to say.

Chief DANIEL LUHLONGWANA.] I concur in the statement of Mqolombeni, which is the statement entrusted to us by the Chiefs present to-day. The Chiefs are at a loss to understand how we who are people living under one King and under one Government should be subjected to this principle of separation.

The Chiefs again repeat what they said at Maritzburg: that they are wholly opposed to that principle. They ask that that which was done by Queen Victoria should be followed. It was in her reign that locations were set apart for the natives. The natives have since that time increased, and it is our request that the locations may be added to.

With regard to the Terms of Reference of the Committee which have been explained to us, we submit that the recommended area in the Richmond Division is wholly inadequate. The Chiefs are afraid that the application of this law will result in their being taken away from the graves of their forefathers and the graves of their relations and their transference to areas which are wholly unfamiliar to them. The request of the Chiefs is that this law may be abolished or withdrawn, but that consideration may be given to the necessity for further extending the present locations. The Chiefs represent that since the coming into operation of the Natives' Land Act natives have been rendered homeless and destitute, some of them resorting to the village and others seeking refuge with their relations, and that a great deal of distress has been occasioned by the law.

Report of meeting held at Nkandhla, Zululand, on 12th January, 1918.

Present: Messrs. G. C. Mackenzie (Chairman), and J. S. Marwick, T. A. Jackson (Magistrate, Nkandhla), and Secretary.

Mr. S. N. ROBBINS.] Although I went into the whole subject at the last meeting before Mr. Chapman, there are just one or two things that I should like to say while I am here before this Committee, not so much as to the advisability of this Bill going through, but as to our own situation on these lands and the negligence of the Government in connection with them. We are farmers and we can say that we have been progressive up to a certain point, and that is to this year, after ten years' solid work. We have built, got our stock together, practically fenced in our lands, but we have no outlet, and we think this way, Sir, that supposing it was a native location and it was all European land round us, whether the Government would treat that community as they have treated us. The engineer tells us we are only 30 miles from the railway—from the terminus at Krantzkop—but for the sake of five or six thousand pounds a road cannot be made. Our only road is to Dundee, Sir, and we look upon you as very wise men for not taking that road by motor car. We have cattle, but if it were not for the sheep and the wool it would be an impossibility to live. That is our position; we have been waiting for better things. Of course, as you know, we have representatives, but we have never seen them except at election time when they are up to time for 5 or 10 minutes and glad to get away again. Well, that is our position right in the centre of a native area. If the Government could say to us: "You are in the native area, but we are going to make things better for you so that your produce can get to market," we can quite see a prospect ahead, but if it is going to be left like this—just a little European

community inside a native area, like fencing us in with barbed wire (which the natives are only too glad to pull down), well as far as I am concerned myself, I should just simply say to the Government: "Then make it a native area and develop the place for the natives. You won't do it for the white man, then do it for the natives by all means."

Mr. E. TITLESTAD.] I do not think it is necessary for me to go into details, but we would like to know as soon as possible whether this area that we are on is really a native area or if it is going to become a native area. If it is not we would like to get a strip of country put on to us to join us to the European area, because if we are isolated as we are at the present time we shall always remain surrounded by natives at all times, whereas if we get a strip of country joining us on to Babanango and Vryheid district we should be attached to the European area and that would do away with any anxiety that is at present hampering us. I do not think we need say any more, as we explained ourselves at the last meeting.

Revd. L. E. OSCTOFT.] Mr. Chairman, I consider I am here to-day representing to a certain extent the native interests, and I think this is the first time that any evidence has been given with regard to this district as regards native occupation. I wish to base my remarks on Clause 2 of your Terms of Reference: "The provision of adequate land in native areas to meet the needs and present requirements of natives as judged by the present number in actual and beneficial occupation of land, together with an additional extent to meet future needs, such extent to be estimated and based upon the following factors, etc." I want to deal with that point for a few moments with regard to what I know is taking place, particularly with regard to the mission stations of the Church of the Province—with regard to Etalaneni particularly.

I should like to point out, first of all, that these natives can also claim to have been very progressive. They have not been as progressive as we should have liked them to have been, but they have made progress. At Etalaneni itself there are over 100 square houses; the natives have about 20 water furrows going (they have not used them to the best extent). They have also gone in for road making and have made two bridges. They have also joined together and have built a dipping tank, which they run themselves under the control of Mr. Jackson and his dipping officer. They have advanced as regards furniture and so on. We have a committee appointed to settle disputes which arise between families. They also show efforts with regard to better cultivation in the way of manuring and ploughing. They are also showing it with regard to making broad paths throughout the district. There is closer settlement in existence at the present time. The question is becoming very acute there and I think Mr. Jackson can bear me out on the point. It is shown by the fact that there is nearly always a famine there. The natives have not enough gardens to work. They won't leave the district; they don't want to leave the "ibandhla" (assembly or community, as they call it. They don't want to leave the place where they were called together in the early days of Mr. Robertson, and the consequence is there is a famine there—more so in some years than others.

There is a great shortage of grazing at the present time; the grazing of the natives is not sufficient. I should like to point out that in the rebellion of 1906 the natives at Etalaneni were loyal to a man and helped the Government very considerably with regard to working during the rebellion—acting as scouts and so on. The native point of view is this: We did this to help the Government. They turned round at once and took away half our grazing grounds (meaning the farms on the Insuzi).

As to the district round there, my idea is that Government should establish modern villages, and so on, to meet the present "impasse" which seems to exist, and I strongly suggest that 10,000 acres of land be taken and turned into a native settlement or village. This ground so taken up should be divided into 20 acre allotments on which these natives should have some sort of occupation given to them, and they should not be able to be turned off at the least whim of the chief. The conditions to be that the land should be improved and that they should be governed by a native committee under the Native Commissioner. I maintain that that would obviate the promiscuous living of natives, which keeps the country back. It would also do away with the disputes which exist on account of the above.

I also think Government should put some money into this scheme. I am a very strong supporter of segregation, but it is no use segregating these natives and leaving them. With regard to this scheme at Etalaneni, it seems to me Government ought to establish some sort of industrial institution, particularly agricultural, to teach these natives to turn out from one acre what they now grow on six. We should be able to give them their definite areas to work on. They should confine themselves to these areas and know that in a sense the land belongs to them, instead of the present system, which keeps them back. They say: "Directly we make a decent piece of land and the country looks a bit better, the Europeans want to come and tackle it."

Mr. Titlestad said that it would be very nice if the country from Qudeni to Babanango were turned into farms. I say it would be very nasty. I am dealing with the contention that no more land should be taken away but, on the other hand, that more should be given back to enable this scheme I have outlined to be gone on with.

I consider the Government ought to do more in an industrial effort for these people

to send someone to teach them how to cultivate better; you cannot leave them to stew in their own juice. The Government should help them along, and here is a golden opportunity to start one of these village schemes. Let the Government put someone there to teach them agriculture a small college would not cost very much—and the man in charge could go round and shew the natives on their own ground how it could be improved. I maintain it is an economically sound proposition, because in the future there will not be sufficient land available for natives or Europeans. We should make the people much more contented, and we should be achieving closer settlement.

As regards Etalaneni, I say specially from my own knowledge as far as I know Zululand, it is one of the few places where we have closer settlement. The natives have shown better advancement; we have established a public opinion amongst them and they have shown they would be amenable to such a thing of which I have given you a broad idea.

Mr. Marwick.] What is the extent of the Etalaneni Mission Station?

Revd. Oscroft.] It has no extent. It was allotted 200 acres. We have no farm rights of any sort. It is within the ward of the Chief Mtshinane.

Mr. Marwick.] And your proposal would be to extend that as a mission reserve, or under what category would you place it?

Revd. Oscroft.] Well, a mission reserve—not with the idea of funds accruing to the mission through the reserve. I think my idea was to run a village scheme, running it by a local committee, after the manner in the Transkei, and I think Etalanani would be the most suitable place in Zululand for making that experiment. The natives there are certainly more advanced than they are anywhere else in Zululand It would certainly be well worth the experiment.

I was afraid of the land between Qudeni and Babanango being taken for Europeans; at present it supports thousands of natives. At present there is scarcely enough land for the present number of natives and the question will become more acute in the future.

Report of meeting held at Melmoth, Zululand, on 14th January, 1918.

Present: Messrs. G. C. Mackenzie (Chairman) and J. S. Marwick.

Mr. W. J. ORTLEPP.] I am speaking on behalf of Mr. T. A. Kelly, who does not wish his farms "Dirkschenburg" and "Kromfraai" included in native area. The railway is coming close to Melmoth and Eshowe, and it makes them more valuable.

By Mr. Marwick.] Mr. Kelly owned these farms from the start off—from the beginning—more than 30 years ago, and they are freehold. I do not know if he got them at the time Proviso B was allotted. The farms are at present solely occupied by natives, who pay £1 a hut rent, but there are about 10 years arrears. The farms are under my supervision, and there are two dipping tanks there.

The Chairman.] Why does not Mr. Kelly occupy himself?

Mr. Ortlepp.] He is in the Land Bank at Pretoria, but he intends to put a European there or perhaps live there himself when he is pensioned. He has never lived on the farm. He has only let the farm for winter grazing; he never had a permanent occupier. The extent of the farms is over 4,000 acres.

By Mr. Marwick.] The farms are not of the best, but they are good for European occupation. They are good for dairying purposes.

Mr. A. W. SYMMONDS.] I wish to confirm the evidence I gave before the first Committee. I lease "Rechterswell" from Archdeacon Johnson and "Spelonk" from Mr. H. B. Liversage. I am using those farms and would rather they did not come into native area. I have a white man on "Spelonk" and am cultivating on "Rechterswell," on which I have 5 years to run and 7 on "Spelonk." I intend to use the farms up to time of expiry of leases for stock and agricultural farming. I have a dip on one farm and am dipping all the native stock. I am going to use the natives for other farms I have in the district, otherwise they have to clear. I won't have them as rent-payers.

Mr. Mackenzie.] You don't pay them any wages?

Mr. Symmonds.] Well, I reckon their time at so much. That comes off in proportion to their rent.

Mr. Mackenzie.] It really means you charge them rent?

Mr. Symmonds.] Well, it may do, but it means they take turn and turn about.

By Mr. Marwick.] I have full control over the natives until my lease expires. All the owner has to look to is his rent, and if I find it to my advantage to have no natives it has nothing to do with him. If I cannot get labour they have to quit. I have had enough trying to get rents out of natives; it is an awful uphill job.

I object as the lessee of these farms to their coming into native area. I have the

right to purchase at any time under the lease. If it is to be a neutral area it would not make much difference.

Mr. H. T. JAMES.] On behalf of the owner of the farm named "Diepkloof, No. 95b," I wish to enter a protest against its inclusion in the native area. My reasons for the protest are these, that as far as I can see the value of that land would be very considerably diminished by its inclusion in a native area on account of the fact that such inclusion would debar the sale of that land to any but a native, except under the terms set forth in the Act. I am aware that there is a considerable division of opinion on that point, but my own opinion is that the value of the land would be diminished anything between 50 and 60 per cent. on that account. I am entering a protest on account of the fact that the owner is away; he is resident in the Western Transvaal, and is probably unaware of the inclusion of that land, and I think it only my duty as the lessee of the farm and more or less representative of the owner at the present time to enter a protest.

With reference to the inclusion in the Schedule to the Act of certain areas in the Province of Zululand, unfortunately I am not prepared with facts or figures. At present I will content myself with an objection on general lines to the inclusion of certain areas as defined in the Schedule on this ground: that when the delimitation of the country was completed in the year 1905, I think, by the Joint Imperial and Colonial Commission, sufficient area of land was laid off for the needs of the present and also future prospective population, and I am not aware that up to the present there has been such an increase in the native population as to make an inclusion of further lands necessary.

What we want in Natal generally, and particularly in this part of Natal, is an increased white population and an opening up of the country by roads and railways, but the inclusion of these areas as laid down in the Schedules will mean that European settlement will to a very great extent be put a stop to. It means that practically the whole of the coast lands of Zululand will be shut up excepting a block in the neighbourhood of St. Lucia Bay. It means that in this district a very considerable slice of land will be cut off—rough country, certainly, but still available for Europeans. It means that in the districts of Vryheid and Babanango a very considerable area indeed will be shut off for ever from Europeans. Now, the question to my mind is: Is it advisable in the interests of the population of the Union as a whole that these areas should be included? We may take it that it may suit the Union Government for various reasons to do so, but the question is: Does it suit this Province and Natal? I say most emphatically, as a resident of many years standing, No; it does not, on account of the fact that it will form a great and insuperable, or practically insuperable, bar to the increase of the European population of the country by means of settlements.

As far as the natives are concerned, I quite acknowledge that it is only just and right that their rights should be considered, but the question may well be asked: Has the necessity arisen up to the present or is it likely to arise in the near future for extended areas? And then we may well ask ourselves is the policy of segregation or territorial separation a right one. I would like to point out this: that the whole of the Native Land Act is more or less in the way of an experiment, and as far as I can see it is an experiment for which Natal is being asked to pay the lion's share, simply because taking the acreages of the respective Provinces it will be found that Natal is called upon to set apart under the Provisions of this Bill a larger area proportionately, or if not exactly a larger area as far as acreage is concerned at any rate a far more valuable portion of territory, than any other Province of the Union. Take what has been done in the Cape, the Transvaal, and the Free State; look at the areas set aside there and compare the value of that land, acre for acre, with what is proposed to be set aside for for Natal, and any impartial observer will say that Natal is going to carry the heavy end of the stick, that is Natal is being unfairly treated.

A further question is this: What is to be the future of the native in South Africa? Is he going to benefit by territorial separation, or call it in other words segregation? Do we find the lot of the natives in the locations any better than that of those natives living on the farm lands? Are they more loyal or progressive? I say no, not at all. The rebellion of 1906 conclusively proved to my mind that the majority of the rebels came from the locations. The locations form a sort of refuge and happy hunting ground for bad characters generally. My experience of natives here and in Natal is that the native is better off when in contact with Europeans than when herded alone in locations.

When the Saunders-Dartnell Commission completed its work a very strong protest was lodged by the people in Zululand against the delimitation on the score of the fact that in the opinion of residents here by far too large a portion of the country was set aside for the native population. A deputation was sent from this part of the country—I happened to be a member and spokesman of that deputation—in order to interview the members of the Natal Government under the Moor Administration. The reception accorded to the deputation was entirely sympathetic, but the Government expressed themselves as bound within the four corners of an agreement entered into by their predecessors in office with the Imperial Authorities, and expressed themselves as entirely unable to effect an alteration, although at the same time stating their sympathies with the views expressed by the people of Zululand.

J. F. MULLER, J.P., M.P.C.] The whole of Zululand—every individual—will tell you what Mr. James has just told you. You knew that before you came here, and the Government knows it.

As regards my evidence before the Beaumont Commission, I made a statement in regard to this division and others round about, that I thought it advisable to cut off certain farms in this district, in lieu of which the Government would allow us to connect the three divisions, viz.: Melmoth, Babanango and Nkandhla, as a European settlement. After the Commission had finished I found out—it was told to me by the members—that it was possible for them to take land, but not possible to give land. Well, they took me at my word to say they could take over certain portions of the Melmoth Division, which I find they are doing now. They did not mention anything about my statement in regard to what I wanted—to give some land in this division in order to connect the three divisions—so that in the event of a native rising or anything of that sort we would be a combined white population of the three districts. We were satisfied to give land if that could have been arranged.

Otherwise, the feeling of Zululand generally is as Mr. James said: that every individual is against this cutting off of European areas that were given to Europeans to be taken back for natives.

By the Chairman.] I urged for the combination of the three districts mentioned and stated that we would give a portion of the land on the Umhlatuzi.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you familiar with the boundaries of the native reserve as laid down by the Saunders-Dartnell Commission?

Mr. Muller.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] For how long do you reckon there will be sufficient land in those reserves for the needs of the existing population and any increase? How long may we reasonably take it that the natives are well provided with land?

Mr. Muller.] I say "Never," according to what I have seen during the last 30 years. I do not say the population is getting less for a moment, but I do not find them any more densely populated than they were.

The Chairman.] To what do you attribute that?

Mr. Muller.] To one cause: Owing to cattle diseases that they do not marry as they did in the old days and take 3, 4 or 5 wives.

By Mr. Marwick.] As far as I know the country you find spaces of 50 square miles and 100 square miles without a single Kafir kraal to day, chiefly in Northern Zululand. From the Umhlatuzi all the way up there is not one spot that is too thickly populated, and there is about a third of the whole territory that is not occupied at all. I am talking of native reserves.

MBIYA KUZWAYO.] I am a pastor at Impapala (in the Eshowe Division), and I find that there are about four farms there, belonging to Messrs. Scott, Fry and Martin, that project into the natives' area, so to say, and make it very difficult for the people to live there, as the owners have fenced their farms and natives cannot cross them. It would be more convenient for the native people if these farms were in native area; it would be better in every respect. Hashi's people are divided by these farms.

I wish to say further that people round about here are in need of a place; I mean on this side of Umhlatuzi there is hardly a location—it is all farms. I have got a proof of what the first Commission did in suggesting that part of the farms on this side of Umhlatuzi should be a native area to relieve natives who are crowded in the locations, otherwise it will be very difficult for those natives to live. I own a farm on this side of Umhlatuzi which is becoming crowded by people who have been shifted from European farms—they have been driven away—so I concur with the suggestion of the first Commission, which should also include the Umhlatuzi Flats down the valley by the bridge, because I find it is very very difficult for our people to improve themselves if they have no ground to work and use. I have noticed that in some parts people wish to improve themselves. I noticed that at Groutville they are doing much work there in the way of planting cane. They are doing well, are getting money, and far more advanced than the natives living on locations, where they cannot do anything of the sort. My request is that the Government give lands for the purpose of planting sugar cane, so that the people may be able to improve.

The Chairman.] Did the natives ever use those flats on the Umhlatuzi?

M. Kuzwayo.] I do not know, Mr. Chairman, but things seem to go in a different way than they did before. Natives seem to see now that they cannot live as they did in olden times; they can see now that by laziness they won't get anything.

The Chairman.] Do you find natives in locations working?

M. Kuzwayo.] Some of them, especially in the mission locations; not much in the large locations. Many of the "Amakolwa" have gone to the Chiefs and asked for a place to plant sugar cane and have been refused. I have some sons who would go and work at once if they had the land.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there any land which is suitable for sugar cane?

M. Kuzwayo.] There might be land, but there is no mill. Down below, on the coast, there is plenty of land there if only the Government would assign it to the native people.

The Chairman.] What about the land round Inyoni?

M. Kuzwayo.] Sometimes the Chief refuses. He says "This is my land; I do not want sugar there." Some three or four years ago people came in and wanted to plant, but when they were ready to plough they were driven off I not sure by whom. The chief has authority over that land; he controls all that land.

The Chairman.] You would like to see the Chief's power done away with?

M. Kuzwayo.] Well, I would like to see that people could get land. It would be a good scheme for the Commission to cut out some small farms for natives. The British have sugar farms, because the Government surveys places for sugar. We have no authority to force ourselves and do what we like on the locations.

Mr. Marwick.] What is your view about your own farm, which is included in the recommended native area?

M. Kuzwayo.] I wish it to remain in native area. The privilege ought to be given to natives to buy so that they can own small farms. I would suggest that the Government should buy these lands from the owners and sell them to the natives on reasonable terms of purchase.

Report of Meeting held at Eshowe, Zululand, on January, 16th, 1918.

Present: Messrs. G. Mackenzie (Chairman) and J. S. Marwick.

Messrs. Reg. A. Taylor and G. W. Higgs, both of Lower Umfolozi Division, appeared as delegates of the Zululand Planters' Union and were mainly questioned on the Report of the Zululand Planters' Natives Land Committee, of which they were members. The report of this committee, dated 18th January, 1917, is put in as evidence.

Mr. TAYLOR.] As regards our evidence given at Empangeni before the Evans-Chapman Committee, an average of one-third of an acre might be taken instead of a quarter of an acre as the amount of land cultivated by each native hut. It is almost impossible to tell exactly, but I am open to bet that if anyone came with me to 20 kraals they would not find an average of half an acre a hut.

Mr. HIGGS.] I told Mr. Evans I thought the Commission would be able to satisfy themselves. I used to continually point out the country to Mr. Evans and ask him if he could see a kraal. You could see for miles without a kraal. At that time fields were under cultivation. The native to-day has gone back well, to such an extent that it is really horrible to think of. The whole trouble arose out of this: previous to rinderpest the Zulu looked upon a man who inspanned a beast as a criminal. If it was done in the olden days he would have been killed. After rinderpest they began to realise that they could put oxen to better advantage. Therefore they started to inspan and consequently 9 out of 10 natives who had 4 or 6 oxen would inspan them. Naturally the women did not do half the hoeing. East Coast fever came along and swept the cattle off, and they have not got the go in them anything like what they had in the old days. They used to rely upon the plough, and now they rely upon what the men can earn. You see them in streams buying 2s. worth of "mabele" to make "utshwala" with—an unknown thing before. We used to buy mealies from them, but now we never see a native selling, even in the most beautiful seasons. Those with oxen are satisfied just with the minimum, and then they drink off what they reap for all they are worth.

Mr. Taylor.] I have ploughed land this year and offered it to a kraal in which there are four wives and two girls to work. I have offered it to them for nothing, and I have offered to supply them with the seed, but they did not take it. They have been with me for six years. They are not all as bad as that, of course.

Mr. Higgs.] On the question of the one-third of an acre, it is a very difficult thing to ascertain exactly, unless you made two or three years' study of it and took measurements, but you will admit, when you go through the land, that you could imagine there was nothing there at all. The proportions are ridiculous.

I still maintain that I do not wish to vary one way or the other with regard to that report of ours. I have lived up there all my lifetime. I have been over that land I suppose as much as anybody has been over it and I think that it is as near to the mark as possible. I was very careful in what I said. The land I had not seen I was open with, and we had to take evidence which was given to the Commission which sat a few years ago, which blotted that map red. We had to take magistrates' evidence to back us. I would not vary one iota.

Mr. Taylor.] We asked that we could have some land exchanged near to Somkele, so that there might be some land next to the line. That was our recommendation.

Mr. Higgs.] It is quite possible that an arrangement could be made with Mtubatuba. He is the only man who could object or otherwise. We do not say take it by force, because the whole of that place used to belong to him. A native is not very fond of a railway line through his place.

Mr. Taylor.] In view of the extension of the railway line from Somkele to the Umkuzi, which must come if the country is to be developed, we would suggest that reserve lands traversed, say for a depth of three miles on each side of the line be exchanged for other land as may be desirable and mutually agreed upon.

Mr. Higgs.] I know the Administrator and the Conservator are very keen on the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. They look upon it as a very choice reserve. But, still, that is not everything. There has been a game reserve between the two Umfolozis from the olden days. Even while Cetshwayo still reigned he used to stop the game—the buffaloes being killed there, and there was never a native there except in the very, very old days. But the Hluhluwe Game Reserve is a beautiful fertile country; why make it a game reserve a blot in the midst of a settlement?

Mr. Taylor.] We strongly urge for the abolition of the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. There is plenty of work for the Conservator in the other reserve, to look after it properly and do away with the travelling game, which do so much damage always. We do cry out against the game wandering on to our farms. The game is not looked after properly. There is plenty of reserve to preserve all the animals we wish to preserve, and at the same time prevent them running all over our farms.

Mr. Higgs.] There are lands now that in the olden days, when we first started to plant cane, we looked upon as absolutely impossible to grow cane. We thought, in fact it was said by cane growers of Natal, "That is no blooming good; you won't grow cane there." I myself left land which I thought no good, but now I grow topping cane on it. Hence the reason of our including all that land from the Umzinene to the Umkuzi. There it is inclined to be a sort of sandy soil that will grow topping cane, but if you had asked me 15 of even 7 years ago and asked the members of the Land Board themselves they would have said: "Oh, hopeless!" but it strikes me that that land has to be extraordinarily bad before it won't grow cane. It has the depth and the right texture of soil.

Mr. Taylor.] For that reason I think the Pongola Valley will grow cane. Mr. Chapman told me that our report was wrong; it is wrong—we have not got it strong enough. I went up this area past the Mkuzi. We came right through—from Pelandaba—and saw big forests of trees. Mr. Harry Francis, who was with me, said: "If you have that tree cut down it is worth £100." He said he had seen mahogany nowhere else but in Rhodesia. There is mahogany and other valuable timber growing there. As far as I could see, all along the Pongolo Valley was a bush and a lot of land which is likely to be very valuable indeed for timber.

The Chairman.] Would that land grow cane?

Mr. Taylor.] He is a rash man who says, Mr. Mackenzie. My impression of it is that it certainly would grow cane. I do not want to be too definite about it, because it is strange land, but it is not a land which should be lightly thrown on one side and said "It is no good." I think myself that towards the Nyamiti Pan, towards the Ingwavuma River, is the best sugar proposition I have seen. The Evans-Chapman Committee went up there. It seems to me that a lot of that light sandy land is a great deal better land than we now think. It is certainly infinitely better than we thought six years ago. There again at Kwambonambi—how it was condemned! I was one who condemned it. I think we have under-estimated rather than over-estimated the capabilities of the land there.

Mr. Higgs.] I do not wish to vary from my former evidence. I would have liked to have gone round with Mr. Evans and then be cross-questioned after they had thoroughly examined everything themselves.

Mr. Taylor.] There is reported to be cement there in the Pongola Valley, and that ought to be looked into before the lands are let out. It would be a very great asset for all. Mr. Von Wissell told me it is excellent stuff, and if it is there it is a valuable asset which should not be overlooked.

At Ndumo you could put sugar into barges and for 2s. a ton you could put it in Delagoa Bay. There is any amount of land there. Von Wissell showed me photographs of cane grown there on his land. It was tall, big, beautiful cane. He is putting 200 acres of that nice land under cotton, and he is hoping to get two crops of mealies this year.

The great point to me is that these lands should not be lightly thrown away—all this land which may or may not be suitable for sugar. I have said these lands beyond the stables should be retained as supply farms to grow mealies and stock for these smaller farms. When the Government goes into mealie growing they will perhaps find a mealie which will stand our hot north winds, and I cannot help thinking a lot of that land will do really well.

Another big possibility is the cultivation of sisal up there in the Pongola. There is land sloping down for easy traction and plenty of water. I think those lands will prove in years to come of more value than we ever thought.

There is one more point—Dumezweni has some graves in the Ntambanana lands. I think the general feeling amongst us is that we would like to meet Dumezweni as far as is reasonable. He is an excellent man, and we do not want to offend him at all. I should

say the grave is 700 yards from the boundary, and I should think it would be covered by one farm, *i.e.* the graves and the kraals; I think it would be quite ample. There was an idea to cut off a lot of land probably three or four farms—but this is not necessary.

There has been an idea to cut off the southern corner of Reserve No. 5. That would be a case of grabbing land and driving out the natives, and we do not want to do that; it is a proposal which is unfair to the natives. A great many of Msiyana's people are on Crown lands and they will have to go on to native reserve. We think the suggestion is exceedingly unjust and we are very much opposed to doing anything which is unfair to the natives. If carried out it would give Msiyana no ground at all.

Native Evidence taken at Eshowe, Zululand, on 15th January, 1918 (after termination of Chief Native Commissioner's Meeting with Natives.

Chief NKANTINI (Emtonjaneni Division).] The private farms which are most needed for native occupation in our tribe are those owned by Mr. George Hulett, the farm "Wilderness" and Mbiya Kuzwayo's farm. Those farms cut our area in two. The farm of the Swedish Mission—"Ekuteleni" was the former kraal site of my father, the late Chief Siteku.

The farms "Dirkenschburg" and "Kroomdraai" are so situated as to be a necessary complement to our native area.

The recent allotment of those farms in the Umhlatuzi Valley has interfered greatly with the available area for native purposes.

Chief SINXI KA MGOMO.] I complain of the encroachment of Mbiya Kuzwayo at the Nkomo Store Site. He is occupying this area in such a manner as to interfere with other natives, and he is exceeding the acreage allotted to him.

We complain that the boundary line laid down by the Saunders-Dartnell Commission is not being adhered to in the case of Mr. Fraser's farm and the farm of one "Mkokoza" (Mr. J. Drane).

Chief DUMEZWENI BIYELA.] With regard to the delimitation of land in my area, I was informed what portion of land which would be rendered available for European settlement, but unfortunately the grave of my grandfather, Mvundhlana, falls within the area to be allotted for European occupation. My father, Mkosana, was killed at Isandhlwana, and his burial place is unknown. My grandfather's grave has always been cared for as that of the only ancestor known to me, and I should be much distressed if his grave were included in land allotted as a farm, as I should be afraid that the grave would not be treated in a proper manner. I ask that this land may be excluded from any farm allotment and rendered available to be cared for by myself.

The grave site is near the O'Kabeni Kraal, being separated from it by a distance of half a mile. The O'Kabeni Kraal is about 1½ miles from the Qomintaba Kraal, at which I reside. Both kraals are on Crown lands. I beg to ask that the land on which the Qomintaba and the O'Kabeni Kraals are situated may be included in native area.

MEHLWANA KOSA (representing Chief NTŠHINGWAYO (Eshowe Division)).] Ntshingwayo wishes me to represent his complaint to the Government. He had trusted that the Government would rectify his cause of complaint in due time. On the establishment of the Eshowe Township my father was obliged to vacate the kraal sites of his father, and subsequenly, when farms were allotted, he suffered further reduction of his area. The Government also took away from his area to supply Yamela with land. To-day again the Government has further reduced Ntshingwayo's area by allotting a portion of it to Mhlakaza, the son of Mpezeni. When this latter step was taken Ntshingwayo was not even informed. The first he knew of the matter was after the allotment had taken place. On account of these four reductions of his area, Ntshingwayo feels that he is now living in the wilderness and his tribe has deserted him, having to seek places of residence from other chiefs. These are the words of complaint which Ntshingwayo has bidden me to represent to the Government. He feels that after his long and continued service to the Government he should not have been treated in this way, and he desires to know what offence he has committed that he should be so treated.

The area originally set apart by the Saunders-Dartnell Commission has been interfered with only to the extent of a partition between Mhlakaza and Ntshingwayo. This has occasioned the overcrowding of the area under Ntshingwayo's control. Mhlakaza made no claim to the area which has been allotted to him, nor did he indicate that he laid claim to any portion of the area at that time under the control of Ntshingwayo. He merely appealed to the Government for land to be provided for him, it being the function of the Government to allot lands.

My grandfather, Sikonyana, became chief of the area indicated in my statement through his services as a warrior under Tshka and his subsequent services under Dingaan, Mpande and Cetshwayo. It is a matter of history that he was allotted the chieftainship of the area in the time of Tshka. He was not at that time subordinate to Mpezeni, Chief of the Biyela. Sikonyana was subsequently appointed as one of the 13 Kinglets after the British occupation.

SIJULU KA MZOLO adds that the portion of Tsingwayo's area which has to-day been allotted to Mhlakaza was originally under Yamela, but on the latter's death it was handed over to Ntshingwayo.

AT MAHLABATINI, ZULULAND, ON 18TH JANUARY, 1918, THE CHIEF NQODI, OF THE MBATA TRIBE IN THAT DIVISION, made the following representations:—

I wish to represent the necessity for including as native area for the use of my tribe ground within the following boundaries: From the Police Camp at Inhlazatshe, down the Itaka, passing to the west of Idhlebe, across the White Umfolozi, including the Impunga Hill and the Mqobonga, along the Mapopomana Stream into the Mapopoma Stream, into the White Umfolozi River to where it joins my present boundary. All the area I have indicated consists of private farms and originally formed part of my tribal lands.

Report of Evidence taken at Nongoma, Zululand, on 21st January, 1918.

Present: Messrs. G. C. Mackenzie (Chairman) and J. S. Marwick, also Secretary.

Revd. C. E. DENT (Head of Wesleyan Mission in Zululand).] I was anxious to go to Cape Town and give evidence on the whole question of the Bill, but the Terms of Reference cut the ground from under one's feet and one feels there is little to talk about. It seems to me a very great pity that they have not gone much more into detail—to tell us a great many more things—because with insufficient information it is impossible for men to make up their minds on the principle of segregation. I might say that I am not at all keen on segregation. I would approve rather of the Europeans and natives growing up together, as they have been. One sees advantages from that. There is an instance in this division—of Mr. Loffler, a progressive farmer in the Bululwana, who grows cotton, etc. As a result of his labour the natives have begun to adopt his methods. They don't burn grass now, but plough it in, and when they see him beginning to plough they commence also. Mr. Loffler used to sell all his mealies locally, now he hardly sells anything locally—mostly to people at a distance. I think if that kind of thing could be repeated in Zululand, in a few suitable places, it would be to the advantage of the natives generally. One feels that if Zululand is to be shut up as a native reserve and we are to be left to the domination of these ignorant, bad-living Zulu chiefs—as it has been for the last 100 years—these people are doomed to a continuation of their heathen practices for many, many generations to come. It is possible, of course, that under this Bill—not certainly what so far is in the Bill—that this may be a very good thing for us. One believes that these people would rise if they were given the opportunity. I am sure that we as missionaries are much encouraged by what we see amongst our people. If we could give them a chance (I maintain that these people in Zululand are not given half a chance) they would. Government gives us 15s. a year to educate a native—15s. a year!—and we have to provide everything for that—provide buildings and everything else for them. Now, if the Government is going to segregate the natives and treat them well, then it may be for the great advantage of the people compared with what has been the custom in the past; but if we are going to be cut off with a barbed wire fence round us, so that no natives can go out and no Europeans can come in, and be left to the heathen chiefs as before, then I view the future with very great misgivings indeed.

We are not told what the Government is going to do with the revenue raised from the native people. Is it to be used for the native reserves and for the development of these people? If that were so then we might look forward to some development. We need badly better roads, better schools, and these people need to be taught methods of agriculture, and so on. Now if the money that is going to be raised from the natives is in the future going to be earmarked for the development of these people, then I think we have a hope—I mean hut tax, dog tax, and the proper proportion of the Customs that is raised from the natives.

The Chairman.] Would you be in favour of Europeans being allowed to go into locations and reserves?

Revd. Dent.] Of course it would never do for the little land which has been cut off for native areas now to be given over to the Europeans, but I do think from what I have been able to see that it is for the advantage of natives to have progressive farmers living among them. I do not see how these people are to rise otherwise, without example.

The Chairman.] Have you ever thought of putting men such as Mr. Loffler into locations—as a sort of industrial teacher on an experimental farm?

Revd. Dent.] Mr. Loffler is a man of this type—that he would welcome being given an opportunity of this nature. It would be a very excellent idea; supposing we had agricultural teachers merely we would want an object lesson before the people, and a farm like Loffler's is an object lesson. He is growing cotton and secured first prize for the Empire. I should certainly approve of that very, very strongly.

The Chairman.] You don't think the locations are too congested now, do you, if they had men like that to teach them?

Revd. Dent.] As far as I am able to judge I would not say that Zululand is too congested, but what I do fear greatly is the introduction of foreign populations—I mean natives from Natal and the Transvaal. The bulk of Zululand is a malarious country even in these valleys here the natives are ridden with malaria—and it would be disastrous to introduce people who are not accustomed to this and these places to come and live here. Speaking on the general question of the removal of natives from Natal into an area like Zululand, is there no provision for Government supervision? Will Government be responsible for the settlement of natives in new centres, or will they turn them adrift? That is a point I feel very, very strongly on indeed. I believe, Sir, that in the Orange River Colony, when this 1913 Act was passed there was a tremendous amount of hardship; the natives were turned off the farms and they went throughout the country; their cattle died whilst they were looking for a place where they could remain on. In Natal we have locations, it is true, but I understand the locations in Natal are congested—absolutely full—but in Zululand I would not care to say they are full. If natives were taught better methods of agriculture the reserves would take more. There is nothing in the Bill to state that Government will accept the responsibility for the removal of natives who are removed under this law, and I think that ought to be very strongly safeguarded, otherwise there will be very great trouble in this country. The Government should remove the natives; they should be compensated for the dwellings which they leave, and they should have the means, with what they have sold there, to purchase a new dwelling in the place where he is going. If a native comes here and asks for a place, he is wholly at the will of the chief. The Government must be responsible for that removal if the thing is to work equitably and smoothly at all.

Zululand is not a place, I think, for any large influx of people, because it would be most difficult to find land suitable for this class of people. I think you will admit that the natives need better land than Europeans do, because they are not able to bring the skill to bear on it that Europeans have, such as manuring, bringing on of water, and so on. It would be a cruel and wicked thing to bring a native on to 10 or any amount of acres of land if there was not water on it. We Europeans do not care much about water, because we can put up tanks and sink boreholes, but there is lots of land in Zululand where there is no water at all. Between here and Ubombo the only water one can depend on is the Mkuzi River.

With regard to these other areas which are to be thrown open on this side (in the Ngotshe Division), there are a lot of acres, no doubt, but it is poor country. I refer to the farms in the Ngotshe Division; they are rocky, barren places. The Government is so likely to be misled, I think, by questions of acreage. Now there are any amount of acres in Zululand, but lots of it is sand, where one cannot grow anything; lots of it is rocky country; a lot of it is infested with game where natives cannot reap anything, everything being eaten by bucks. In some of these malarious places natives have to sit up all through the summer nights to guard their crops against animals.

I think these are the main points I wish to bring to the notice of the Committee. I am so afraid of Zululand being reckoned as a country which will carry any amount of native people. As a matter of fact, it is not—much of it is absolutely uninhabitable. The natives here themselves are afraid to live in some of these fertile valleys on account of the malaria.

Bishop Roach says that about 400,000 natives are affected in Natal with regard to this new Bill and that in all probability these people will have to remove from their present places and have to find new places of domicile. Well, the Government will be responsible for finding these people a new home.

The Chairman.] You understand that land will have to be bought by natives?

Revd. Dent.] We are told that under this new Bill the native will be allowed to buy land in native areas; he will be allowed to buy and the European can not. Is that not—I was going to say—a blind? Is it not generally known that that is so—that natives will not be able to buy land in reserves; that all the natives living in Zululand at present will not be able to own their homesteads. If they wish to own their homes they will have to come into these new areas.

After this Bill is passed would it not be possible for an Act of Parliament to be passed then to treat all the native reserves as one? It would be a tremendous hardship, after this division takes place, if the natives here who have been progressive are not able to get land, and if they want land must leave their homesteads and start *de novo*.

Mr. Marwick.] Assuming these farms in the Ngotshe Division were declared a native area, there would be natives in this locality who would wish to purchase there?

Revd. Dent.] I could not say. As far as I could say I should say not. I do not think while these people are left as they are at present they would bother about that. These people in Zululand are a backward people. They have not much idea about owning land and raising money to buy land; but it will come, of course. Not more than five natives can combine to buy a farm; well, that seems to be almost prohibitive: how can five natives raise enough money to buy a farm. To expect any native to buy a farm of a thousand morgen—it is quite ridiculous!

If they treated natives as they treat Europeans generally we should have nothing to complain of. We as missionaries would be delighted if the day was to come when there should be no distinction of colour. I do not want them to come under English law, but I think there should be a Land Bank for the natives, and they should be treated fairly and squarely all round.

As regards the estimated annual increase of native population, why should one limit oneself to a matter of ten years? This thing is good for 20, for 100 years. A very small proportion of the country is set apart for native occupation; in a few years' time they will become very congested, the natives are increasing so rapidly.

Would it not be a good plan that there should be parts cut up as villages with, say, 10 acre plots, in certain centres; a man would go away and work and then come back to these villages?

Mr. Marwick.] Do the natives adapt themselves to the village system of residence? What has been your experience?

Revd. Dent.] The only experience I have had is in the Free State—I lived at Tabanchu for a year; of course, it is a very large native village. I have never seen anything of the kind in Natal, except at Endaleni (near Richmond). I think that the system here in Zululand is better and more moral for the natives than living in congested villages.

Mr. Marwick.] I take it there can be no economy in the use of land as long as each individual hut cultivates its individual piece of land?

Revd. Dent.] Undoubtedly. As it is now they have their gardens scattered all over the place. There are endless gardens belonging to one hut and all in between is not used. The thing must be controlled and the sooner we get something of that kind the better it will be for the future.

Mr. Marwick.] Would it not be a step in the right direction to make larger units—make the kraals larger and the fields larger and more compact?

Revd. Dent.] Yes, it might be an advantage. I think the natives would resent it; I think they would resent any interference with their methods. The heathen people, of course, are the difficulty. I think it would be a very good idea: if they were living closer together they could co-operate—one man could own a plough and one a harrow—and they could get one boy, perhaps, to "lusa" (herd) all their cattle.

We need more help in the way of doctors. There is a terrible amount of sickness in Zululand and a lot of unnecessary deaths. It costs a terrible lot to fetch a doctor to a native kraal, and we need a great deal more in the way of doctors at present. We have one doctor for Hlabisa, Nongoma, and Mahlabatini Divisions—one man.

Dr. the Revd. F. W. WALTERS (District Surgeon and Vicar of Nongoma).] There was the question of freeholders. It says in Chapter 3, Section 12: "After the expiry of one year after the commencement of the Act a native shall not reside on any land in a non-native area unless (*a*) he is the registered owner of such land or is a wife or the child of such owner, or is a member of the family of such owner and actually dependent upon him." What do they mean by "child"; does that mean that a man's grown-up sons would be considered as children? Supposing the old man was dependent upon their labour, what about that? It is an oversight probably. I should think it would fall within the scope of your Committee to draw attention to the ambiguity of that phrase. That clause really involves the breaking up of the native home.

There is another question: We have got a community here of coloured people—not so much half-castes as the descendants of half-castes. There is a large community. There must be a certain amount of ignorance about it. They do not know whether they are under native law or not. They are living really on native reserve, and in order to do that they have to "konza" to the native chiefs. Are they natives or not? It is a very important point—where you get these coloured people living on native reserves are they to be treated as Europeans or as natives? Ought not some clause to be introduced to make their position absolutely clear? These coloured people are gradually encroaching on land which has been set apart for native occupation and therefore they are lessening the area for natives, but against that it has to be said that they are go-ahead men; they are living in a civilized way—they plant and they build houses and they are really a blessing, because they show the natives better methods of living and planting. Just from the theoretical point of view they are encroaching on natives, therefore I ask what is their position. These men, I think, should be protected or else be told distinctly they cannot go there.

COPY.

Makowe, P.O.,
Via Somkele, Zululand.
January 18th, 1918.

J. A. W. Clayton, Esq.,
Secretary, Natives' Land Committee, Natal.

Dear Sir,

I regret I was not able to attend the Natives' Land Committee's meeting at Nongoma, to give evidence on the Natives' Land Act. As I have not got a copy of the *Gazette*, I do not know what information you require; but I feel it my duty to make this statement on the Act:—

(*a*) I fail to understand this unseemly haste to pass this Act whilst the Empire is engaged in the greatest war the world has ever known. It has waited so long; what is at the bottom of this haste?

(*b*) I am entirely against this Natives' Land Act, as I consider it is not going to be a fair deal, because a certain class refuse to give up land and wishes all the native population to be removed to other parts of the Union and they do not seem particular where they place them—whether such places are healthy, suitable for native settlement or not.

(*c*) You are going to remove natives, and force them to live among people whom they do not know and will be received on sufferance. In the past the native policy has been to put one chief against the other. Now, you are going to force these tribes to live together, and there can be only one result—continuous quarrelling, which, in future, is going to be a source of danger and expense to the Union.

(*d*) As the native religion is spiritualism, it is not right to force people to leave the vicinity of their ancestral homes, leaving their ancestors' spirits behind, which they believe play a great part in their future lives.

(*e*) The whole of your natives' land policy, in the past, of large locations has not been a success, and is only an increasing danger for our future generations to deal with.

(*f*) I humbly suggest that natives be treated as Europeans, that is, given some holding to their lands, which could be done by giving out leaseholds at a nominal rental, subject to good behaviour. A native would then build better houses, improve his lands, and plant trees, etc.—a thing he will never do so long as he is allowed to move from place to place, and has no responsibility of his holding.

If you are honest in trying to raise the natives, show it by practical means, that is, teach him to build better houses, till his ground, encourage him to advance and materialize this valuable asset in giving him a thorough good education, not allow him a half education, which is a source of danger to himself and all those he comes in contact with. When you have got his confidence, and to look upon you as a benefactor, and not oppressor, then Europeans will be able to live side by side with the natives of Africa.

In conclusion, I consider this present Land Act is the greatest danger the Colony has ever faced, and should be condemned by all who have the true interests of the natives and Africa at heart.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JAMES CROSLY.

Report of Evidence tendered at Nongoma, by Tom Reid, a coloured man, on January 22nd 1918.

Present: Messrs. G. C. Mackenzie (Chairman), J. S. Marwick, Chief Native Commissioner, Magistrate, Nongoma, Mr. C. Faye (interpreting) and Secretary.

TOM REID.] I came here to Nongoma to hear what was said, seeing that we also live among the natives in their own area, and to ascertain how we would be affected by the new Bill.

By the Chairman.] I do not pay hut tax now. I did in the past, at Qudeni, and also in Hlabisa Division when Mr. Clark was magistrate. It was during Mr. Clark's time that I ceased to pay hut tax, after I had consulted a lawyer on the subject.

Mr. Marwick.] Were your parents married under Christian rites?

T. Reid.] I am not certain. My parents were married by the Revd. Mr. Blencowe. My mother's father was a German. My grandmother was a native slave, not of Natal birth. My grandfather's name was David; I cannot give his surname. My father was

from England. I do not know how old he was when he came to this country. I am very dense in not being able to give any details with regard to my ancestors. My father led the expedition against Matshana ka Mondisa at Mangeni.

Mr. Marwick.] Under what conditions are you, Reid, and the other coloured people living at Nhlwati? Have they merely asked for ground from the chief; were they put there by the magistrate, or how did they come to live there?

T. Reid.] We were given places of residences by the native chiefs.

Mr. Marwick.] Up to now it is with the will of the chief they have continued to live there?

T. Reid.] We are still subject to the chiefs. Our cases are heard by them.

Mr. Marwick.] How many are there of the same class as yourself?

T. Reid.] There are 19 of us in Hlabisa Division.

Mr. Marwick.] Are they living in one locality?

T. Reid.] We do not live in one locality. We extend beyond the Nhlwati locality—some to the east of it and some to the west. The settlement runs from this side of the Makowe Store, bordering on the road, along the length of the plateau—some few miles.

Mr. Marwick.] How did you come to reside there?

T. Reid.] I came to these parts following the Revd. Mr. Robertson. Moreover, other people of my class had already preceded me and I was following them up. My wife was a Miss Nunn. My sisters also had gone. I have no brothers, but five sisters.

I have not come here really on behalf of residents like myself from the Hlabisa District; I have merely come on my own account. What is worrying us, Sir, is that we are not sure of the nature of our tenure. We have not been told of it. We live in an uncertain way, surrounded by natives who are constantly troubling us—for instance, if we wish to cultivate it sometimes happens that a native will come along and stop us. We are then powerless to do anything more in the matter. I wish to make it clear that I have not been sent by the coloured people of Hhlabisa District. Another reason which prompted me to come here is that on previous occasions when there have been public meetings, natives who have attended them return to their kraals in our neighbourhood spreading all kinds of stories of what was said, saying we were to stop cultivating and remove from where we have been living.

Mr. Marwick.] How long have you been living in this locality as a coloured community?

T. Reid.] I came during the Anglo-Boer War, but others came before me. Walter Nunn came with the Revd. Mr. Robertson; he was the first. Strydom followed. I am not certain of the exact time when they came.

Mr. Marwick.] Can you give us the names of the heads of families who are in that locality now?

T. Reid.] F. Strydom, Harry Nunn, Vivian Dunn, Charlie Nunn, Percy Nunn, Alfred Nunn, Robert Nunn, Walter Pierce, Frank McLaughlin, Richard Nunn, Joseph Boyles, Hans Dunn, John Thring, Albert Thring, Jim Nunn, Walter Nunn, Mrs. D. C. Jakobson and son, Tom Reid (my son) and myself.

We have a school for our children. It was built by ourselves; we made our own bricks for it. Government assisted by providing the roof. A Mr. Leitch is the headmaster of the school. He receives a salary from Government. We pay 5s. per month per child. We also built a small house alongside the school for the headmaster. Children living far away board with the nearest coloured families.

Mr. Marwick.] What is the attitude of the chief towards this settlement? Is it hostile or friendly? Does he personally interfere or show any hostility towards your living there?

T. Reid.] The native chief does not trouble us. It would be untrue if I said anything against him. The people who do sometimes talk and cause us uneasiness are our native neighbours. If there was any complaint that we might mention in connection with the native chief it is that he is somewhat slow in dealing with our matters when they are brought before him. At present there is a garden dispute which has been hanging fire for some time—a dispute between one Mlonyeni and Alfred Nunn. The chief's slowness sometimes leads to people falling out with one another. At one place where I was cultivating (mentioning my own matters) I have been ousted by Mkuba.

Mr. Marwick.] Can you give us any idea of the extent of ground each of these families is allowed to use under present circumstances?

T. Reid.] We do not have a defined area round our homestead. Each one cultivates round about in the neighbourhood, the gardens being dotted about just as may be convenient for the people residing in that neighbourhood and by agreement with them.

Mr. Marwick.] The chief has never laid off gardens for your use individually?

T. Reid.] No. No land has actually been set aside for us, but there was at one time an attempt by the authorities to lay off land for us. It was proposed to give us only 20 acres. We protested that it was quite insufficient for our requirements. The matter went no further. I presume the land would have been given off round our homesteads, but it was never said definitely.

Mr. Marwick.] Is not the original homestead of the Nunns on the Italaneni Hill?

T. Reid.] The Nunns came from Ngome. There is one Nunn at Italaneni; I do not know under what conditions he lives there, but am under the impression that he lives on land held by Mr. Calverly.

Mr. Marwick.] Will you tell us how your own particular community is guided in regard to marriage questions and inheritance?

T. Reid.] We follow our fathers in that respect. We try in everything to follow the footsteps of our forefathers, not our mothers. If any of you were to visit us at our homes you would find nothing to complain about. You would find rooms and furniture just the same as you would in visiting a white person's home, although, perhaps, if you were to visit me to-day there might be a shortage of foods owing to railway breakdowns.

We separate ourselves from the "Mkalipi" (Pierce family) people because they follow native custom wholly and entirely, smoking the horn, for instance. Although they are like us in appearance we try and keep apart from them as much as possible.

By the Chairman.] I make my living by transport riding. When there is a scarcity of food in the country we also sell mealies to natives. We do not go away from our locality to earn our living—we make it at home by farming and transport riding.

I was married by the Revd. Mr. Farmer at Mr. Adams' house at Tugela. My children have been married in the same way by Christian rites, also my sisters and my brothers-in-law.

Mr. Marwick.] Asks regarding the proposed 20-acre lots spoken of.

T. Reid.] No one came on behalf of the authorities, but we on our account obtained the services of a surveyor to indicate the extent of 20 acres and also of 100 acres. Mr. Crosly would know the name of the surveyor. We were dissatisfied with the extent of both 20 and 100 acres. I would just mention that there was a suggestion once made by our present magistrate to set aside an area for us in the locality known by us as "Emasundweni," but it went no further. The locality is a very arid one and would not have suited us. There was no water obtainable there, nor did stock thrive there.

The Chief Native Commissioner explains the position regarding the allotment of sites.

Mr. Marwick.] Do these people who pay rent cultivate a larger amount of land than those who do not pay rent?

T. Reid.] I cannot say; we are all much in the same position.

Evidence given by Mr. F. J. Lewis, Surveyor-General of Natal, on 27th February, 1918, at Pietermaritzburg.

Going from Somkele, after one crosses the Hlazana Stream, you get into excellent sugar country, as far as I could judge, and from other reports one is led to believe that it is all good there. Across the Hluhluwe we got into Crown lands which it has been proposed should be in native area. I do not think that should be in native area; we have too little sugar lands already in Natal and in the Union, and if we do not develop that land to the best of our ability in a few years' time we will be importing sugar. Now the natives are not making the best advantage of that land at the Hluhluwe. It is land which apparently they do not care for, judging by the few kraals there. If it was land that they cared for, surely they would have gone there already, being flat country and easily worked, especially after they had lost their cattle. One is forced to the conclusion that they do not care much for that country. Well, what is the use of putting that into a native area when we are so hard up for sugar lands? Therefore I think that area should be certainly left out of native area. I personally would like to see an exchange made of that land north of the Hlazana for land between Reserves 12 and 3—Crown lands between Somkele and Hlabisa. The latter are much more suitable for natives; it is better land from their point of view and there is more of it as regards acreage.

There is enough land for natives to grow sugar on at Empangeni, close to the railway, and within easy reach of the mills. I know if we had it and it was thrown open to-morrow, it would be all taken up within a week. Then, coming further south again where the native reserve touches the railway in Eshowe Division, the native reserve is every bit as good as the European land but not touched, so there is plenty of good sugar land left for the natives.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think there would be 100 sugar farms in that 64,000 acres of land (native reserve) north of the Hlazana?

Mr. Lewis.] Yes, I should think so. We should make them about 300 acres each. We should get at least 30,000 acres of good sugar land there. It seemed to be excellent land as far as we could see. There was any amount of it, and very sparsely occupied by natives; we came across very few kraals.

As regards the land between Somkele and Hlabisa, the southern portion—towards the River Umfolozi—was a bit rough, but the land along the road as far as we could see I

think was fairly good. It was fairly rough in parts, but it was very good grazing land. We passed over it after a very dry spell. The foliage of the trees was quite good, so I think one might say that was quite good cattle country. It seemed to be fairly well watered. We crossed two or three streams with a fair amount of water in them. I would not care to say anything about the possibility of getting water there by boring.

Mr. Chapman.] Are you prepared to recommend that where there is no water the Government put down bore-holes?

Mr. Lewis.] No, I am not, because I think dams would do better in some cases. The department is not contemplating handing out dry farms. We would take on the cost of boring on the farms. It is a new thing and we should do it in the case of Zululand farms.

The Chairman.] What do you think of the Sekane Valley?

Mr. Lewis.] We looked at it from the roads. It looked to me very dry. The soil probably was good, but there was nothing on it when we passed; it was a very dry season.

Mr. Chapman.] From the formation of that land, don't you think it possible that an irrigation scheme might be worked from the Mkuzi?

Mr. Lewis.] Yes, I think it is quite possible. Of course, I have no levels, and I do not like to speak on irrigation schemes without knowing something about levels. We crossed the Mkuzi after a very dry spell, and there was a lot of water in it. I should say it is possible. My opinion is that before Government do anything—before handing it over to the natives—they should send up an irrigation expert to go over it and see what can be done. As a matter of fact, as it is to-day it is not much use to natives.

Country west of the Pongolo: Speaking of this journey we took along the banks of the river at a distance from one to perhaps five miles, according to the bends, the greater part of that land we went over I must say I was not impressed with. There were some patches of it good and where you got to the river it was excellent, but there were parts that were not good.

By Mr. Chapman.] The soil was poor, I think. A lot of the stuff we went over was composed of round stones with sand mixed up. Wherever you came to the river or to where the old pans had been it was excellent soil. At Wissell & Finetti's place the soil appeared to be excellent, but further on again, towards the Usutu, one got into very poor sandy country.

Mr. Chapman.] You admit that we saw that country at its worst?

Mr. Lewis.] Yes, we saw that country as bad as it has been for 20 or 30 years, perhaps.

Mr. Chapman.] Would you be prepared to recommend that some steps be taken with regard to that valley—the Makatini Flats and the Pongolo Valley—as to obtaining the advice of an expert irrigation officer?

Mr. Lewis.] I think it could only be done by pumping. Of course my knowledge of the river is limited, but where we did see it the banks appeared to be fairly high. It did not strike me as being an irrigation project. There were ridges going right down to the banks in some places. I do not want to be definite, because I don't know.

Country east of the Pongolo: Bits of it were very good. The lower half was, I think, better than the middle portion. Close to the river was pretty good all the way, but that belt might only be 100 to 200 yards wide. Going eastwards towards the Mozi Swamp it is poor country—sandy and porous. There was bush and scrub from the Pongolo until we got practically to the Mozi Swamp.

On our return journey the country on the north side of the Mkuzi was poor. The country on the south side was better, but not so good as it is nearer the Hluhluwe by a long way. I think some of the best grazing I saw in Zululand was that near the Dukumbane School, beyond Makowe. At the time we were there the grass was rich and thick and the cattle were like stall fed animals.

I have not been to the Ngotshe at all, but looking at it from Zululand it seemed to be very similar.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think those areas set aside for European settlement by the Saunders-Dartnell Commission—at Nqutu, Nkwaleni, Nkandhla and so on—should be put into native area?

Mr. Lewis.] Those fellows are making a struggle to start, and some of them have done a good deal, others not so much. I do not think it is quite the right thing to tell them now that they must clear out; they have established themselves there. One or two men have sold their holdings through being under-capitalized.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think those settlement schemes will be successful in the course of time, if Government assists them?

Mr. Lewis.] The only one I have a little doubt about is the one at Nondweni, where the soil is poor.

Mr. Chapman.] Did Sir William Beaumont's Commission discuss this question with you before they made their recommendation?

Mr. Lewis.] I was not Surveyor-General at the time. Mr. Watson was, and I am not aware whether they did. I do not think so, because I feel sure our department would not have recommended many of those areas to be taken in.

Mr. Chapman.] What is your view as to the recommended areas, having regard to the fact that Sir Charles Saunders and General Dartnell reported on and delimited that country some few years before; don't you think their report should stand?

Mr. Lewis.] Yes, I do. I know the opinion at the time was that they had left very little land for Europeans, and that the natives had certainly received very, very fair treatment—liberal treatment, in fact—as regards the land retained for them, and I do not think it would be fair to now take the land which has been reserved for Europeans. As far as I can see it does not appear to be necessary. The two Commissioners knew the country very well when they delimited it; I do not suppose anybody knew the country better than Sir Charles Saunders and he certainly did not take an excessive amount of land from the natives.

Evidence given by Mr. J. S. Henkel, Conservator of Forests, Natal, Pietermaritzburg, on 28th February, 1918.

One of the most important points, I think, is the question of Area No. 13, which embraces the slopes of the Drakensberg. I see that these areas—the areas of Crown Lands—are to be included in the adjoining native location, and I should like to represent to the members of the Committee that I have recently visited the Giant's Castle Game Reserve in order to get some idea of the country. When the game reserve was started some 13 or 14 years ago some trees were planted experimentally with a view to ascertaining how they would grow in that locality. Some 12 acres were put down of various kinds of trees. These are now 13 years of age, and to indicate the extraordinary growth I give you the following figures (see list of varieties and measurements attached).

There are other trees which are younger; some have failed and others are doing well. The object in quoting these figures was to indicate to the Committee that much of that land which is utterly unsuitable for agricultural purposes is excellent for forestry purposes. It is porous, very liable to erosion and unless heavily manured would produce nothing in the way of crops. I saw several areas that had been cultivated with practically no results at all, and it occurred to me that representations should be made on behalf of the Department that that mountain land should be reserved as a State asset for afforestation, and that it should not be included in a native area. The reasons for making that statement are the following:—

The area is too rugged, bleak and cold and the elevation too high for most natives. It is from 4 to 6 or 7,000 feet, and the soil on the whole is unfit for growing cereals, being loose, friable and poor except in a few places along the banks of the rivers. Then, if the area was reserved to the Government for afforestation purposes it would mean that a huge supply of timber could be grown there. It would also mean the protection of the water supply and the prevention of erosion.

With the establishment of plantations we should be able to give a great deal of labour to natives on the adjoining locations—for men, women and children. A lot of the land would have to be hand-hoed, and at remunerative rates we could employ quite a large number of people. In my judgment it would be better in the interest of the State to have that area set aside for afforestation than by locking it up for native purposes with a small chance of it ever being utilized to any great extent.

Those are the main reasons that I should like to advance why the upper slopes of the Berg should not be included in a native area.

By Mr. Chapman.] The trees are near the Game Conservator's house. We have not put any in further up the slopes of the Berg. Those trees were planted at the time the game reserve was controlled by the Forest Department. After Union it was handed over entirely to the control of the Provincial Administration, so that practically nothing has been done since Union. A few trees have been planted, but nothing on any scale.

By the Chairman.] They were planted on a ledge—a kind of plateau overlooking the Bushmen's River. There is a fair amount of soil there, but in some parts it is quite shallow. I walked and rode over much of the land, and there is a very large area which is quite suitable for trees.

By Mr. Chapman.] Do you think trees will do well on the higher slopes?

Mr. Henkel.] I believe they would; not right in the snow line, but on the higher slopes I am inclined to think that trees will do well.

Mr. Chapman.] Have any trees been planted higher up towards Bergville?

Mr. Henkel.] Not on any land belonging to the Government, but I have seen trees growing well at Muller's Pass, that is further up the line. On an estate up there there are some splendid *Pinus Insignus* trees and *Lusitanica*, all doing well at 5 or 6,000 feet elevation, and there is every reason to believe they would do well at a higher elevation.

The question of afforestation is a very important one in regard to the industries of the country. I believe along the slopes we could grow a great deal of the coniferous timber

which is urgently required for the industries of the country, and it seems to me that the whole area might be turned into a kind of National Park. It could be opened out in such a way by roads that it becomes accessible to all sections of the community throughout the Union of South Africa. The scenery is some of the finest we have in the Union.

It must be apparent to the members of the Committee that if closer settlement is to be taken in hand seriously one item immediately requires consideration, and that is the provision of fencing and building material. If the natives take to proper houses a big supply of timber will be required, and all that will tend to the better development of the native people, making them happier and more reconciled to the conditions on the locations.

The Government has the power to set aside or to proclaim certain areas in the location for the protection of timber or the growing of timber for the natives themselves. It need not be done by the Forest Department; it could be run by a Native Council. The whole thing could be managed in the interests of the natives, and in travelling through the country I am sure the members of the Committee must have noticed how much wilful destruction of valuable timber has taken place which might be easily restricted in the interests of the natives themselves.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, there is no restriction as regards the burning out of bush for gardens. That is going on every year. The Government have written to the magistrates asking them to get the chiefs to interest themselves in this, but there is no absolute rule. The common method is to fell the undergrowth, pile it round the bigger trees, and as soon as it is dry enough they put in a light and in the area burned off they cultivate. Is it not within the powers of the Committee to make some recommendation with regard to this very serious aspect in the interests of the natives themselves? From a closer settlement point of view I certainly think that something ought to be done. It is only a question of time when nearly all the forests now on native locations will disappear. That means that these unfortunate natives—the children of the present generation—will have to buy wood from adjoining farmers, probably at a high rate, in order to build their kraals, unless they plant trees themselves.

I feel convinced thot if some regulations could be drawn up under a Local Board a great deal could be done to prevent this destruction. I should like the indigenous forests protected because they conserve the water supply. We do not mean that these forests should not be utilized. They can still supply the demands, but they should be regulated. Only ripe trees should be utilized, and the more valuable timber which the natives do not use themselves and the amount realized be put to the credit of the native location.

Mr. Marwick.] Side by side with any regulations for the protection of indigenous forests it would be easy to encourage and stimulate the planting of other trees

Mr. Henkel.] Quite easy. There is a broader aspect: take, for instance, the plantation of trees at Taylors—I see no reason why native carpenters should not be trained at an institution like that for making furniture for use by the natives. They might be trained in all kinds of technical ways for the benefit of the natives themselves. They could be trained there and then distributed amongst the locations for making doors, windows, tables, etc., from timber grown in the country. I think it is for the present generation to look into the future, to provide in the interests of the natives for an adequate supply of cheap timber, because I feel convinced that proper afforestation will go hand in hand with closer settlement. It seems to me, talking generally, that there is ample necessity for Government to regulate this indiscriminate cutting in the interests of the natives, and that no time should be lost to draft such regulations and to enforce them.

By Mr. Chapman.] If they came under our Department we have the staff of trained men and we may be able to manage it better than the Native Trust. I think it would be better under our Department. The Zwartkop is not managed by our Department; it is entirely managed by the Native Trust.

The Chairman.] Don't you think it would be a mistake if they were allowed to plant trees among the agricultural lands?

Mr. Henkel.] Not if it is regulated. For instance, they might have avenues of trees of the right kind planted between their individual plots. They would sacrifice a certain amount of land. They might put them round their homesteads, but it ought to be under regulation.

In regard to forest operations, we very rarely have any difficulty with labour. The natives like it. At Umhlatusi we employ a large gang of boys now; most of them come from the fever districts. We take great care of them and supply them with proper capes in wet weather.

Mr. Marwick.] If the regulations for the control of these forests in native areas were entrusted to your Department it could be done by a system of subsidising your Department for your work in that connection?

Mr. Henkel.] Yes, it could be done in that way, but revenue would be credited to the Native Trust for the benefit of the natives.

EXPERIMENTAL PLANTING OF TIMBER TREES AT GIANT'S CASTLE GAME RESERVE.

TREES 13 YEARS OLD.

Species.	*Average girth.* Inches.	*Average height.* Feet.
Pinus Insignus	44	45
,, pinaster	20	35
,, sylvestris	15	25
,, laricio	15	20
,, rigida	10	15
Cryptomeria japonica	27	35
Eucalyptus obliqua	50	75
,, globulus	60	70
,, hemiphloid	30	40
,, gunii	37	60
,, sideroxylon	28	40
,, texticornis	30	60

There are various other kinds. Some have done well; others are failures or too young to form an estimate of their suitability to the locality.

The area planted is about 12 acres.

COPY.

Office of Conservator of Forests,
Pietermaritzburg, 1st March, 1918.

NATIVE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION ACT.

Sir,—Adverting to the evidence which I gave to the Committee yesterday on the subject of the exclusion of the Crown lands on the slopes of the Drakensberg from native reserves, I inadvertently omitted to refer specifically to the Upper Tugela Location.

The South-Western boundary of this location it will be observed extends to the top of the berg between the points the "Prop" and "Mont aux Sources." Between the two points mentioned and for some distance into the location the country is very rugged and quite unfitted for native occupation, though it is well adapted for afforestation. Along the upper slopes of the area presently falling within the location is to be found some very fine scenery with patches of indigenous forest at intervals in the deep gorges.

At Mont Aux Sources adjoining the northern boundary of the Tugela location a tract of land in extent 10,193 acres has been recently set aside as a National Park. Unfortunately some of the best scenery, namely that south of the Tugela gorge, is situated within the location referred to.

The National Park Advisory Committee has made representations to the Provincial Secretary with a view to steps being taken to acquire, if this is possible, the location land immediately surrounding the main Tugela gorge, in extent about 1,500 acres. If this request were granted it would mean that certain indigenous forests which add greatly to the magnificence of the scenery would be preserved, moreover, it will then be possible to maintain a herd of eland and other kinds of game which would otherwise be impossible.

While the foregoing represents the minimum area which would be necessary to make the National Park a place of recreation as well as a haven for indigenous flora and fauna, it would perhaps not be out of place to make some representations in regard to a larger scheme which would more justly fulfil the requirements of a National Park. For this larger scheme I would suggest that the Upper Slopes of the Tugela Location be taken in exchange for available Crown land on the lower slopes, which is more adapted for native occupation. Should such a scheme find favour with the Committee and is accepted by the Government it will be possible with the strip of land extending from the present National Park to the Griqualand East border to carry out an extensive afforestation scheme arranged in such a manner as to give protection to game and at the same time render accessible by means of roads and paths one of the finest mountain ranges with its unrivalled scenery as a recreation ground for citizens of the Union of South Africa.

The upper slopes of the Tugela Location are not inhabited by natives, so that no hardship would be entailed on anyone. On the contrary, an equivalent area of Crown land on the lower slopes would permit of a larger native population living under more congenial conditions and surroundings.

An afforestation scheme, besides supplying timber for industrial development, would provide continuous labour at remunerative rates to a large number of men and women.

The actual boundary line of the location on the lower slopes could be fixed by a Commission consisting of a member of the Forest Department and a representative of the Native Affairs Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. S. HENKEL,
Conservator of Forests.

G. W. Mackenzie. Esq.,
Chairman, Natal Local Committee,
Native Affairs Administration Act.

Evidence given by Mr. P. A. Stuart, Acting Chief Inspector of Locations, Natal, on 28th February, 1918, at Pietermaritzburg.

As regards progress or advance in Alfred and Lower Umzimkulu Divisions, there is no improvement whatever since I went there six years ago, speaking generally.

I have kept no figures with regard to the annual increase in the native poplation, but my opinion is that it is not increasing as it used to do, because polygamy is not so greatly practised. It seems to be on the decline.

The Chairman.] Don't you think they make up for it in the better feeding and care of their children?

Mr. Stuart.] Not in that area. They are still in a barbaric state there. It might be so in other areas.

Mr. Chapman.] Are any of these locations suitable for closer settlement schemes?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, the majority are, especially on the coast. Generally speaking, the whole of the locations in the divisions of Alfred and Lower Umzimkulu would be. If the Transkeian system were adopted I should say they would carry 100 per cent. more natives than at present. In the Transkei I think the minimum allotment per hut is about nine acres. I gave evidence before the original Commission on this point and there is no doubt to the man who goes about and sees day after day on these locations that there is a tremendous amount of good arable land wasted. The gardens are too scattered; if they were brought together and cut up as is done in the Transkei to-day a tremendous area would be reclaimed, as it were. I have never gone very carefully into it, but speaking on the spur of the moment I should say if a closer settlement scheme were brought in I should think 75 to 100 per cent. more natives could be accommodated. In the Transkei the country is flat, and it is much more easily surveyed—the lands are continuous, whereas in the area to which I am referring, except in Alfred Division, is very broken. The land is very good in Lower Umzimkulu Division, but it does not lend itself very well to that, although it could be done with a lot of work.

Mr. Chapman.] How much land would you say each individual kraal would cultivate at present?

Mr. Stuart.] About three acres. I have three areas to think of and, speaking generally, I should say about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 acres. The tendency is to cultivate more land than formerly. I have recently written several reports with reference to Alexandra Division. There the conditions are different: they cultivate cane very much and the tendency is to take more land than they require. The greatest acreage cultivated in the Alexandra Division to-day by one man is 30 acres, but the tendency there, and I think everywhere, is to cultivate more.

The Chairman.] Does he hire that 30 acres?

Mr. Stuart.] No. A man wishes to reside in the reserve: he applies to the supervisor, who gets authority from here. The supervisor is theoretically supposed to go out and define his area. In the case of the man spoken of he has simply gone on adding, adding. He has seen that cane pays and now he has 30 acres. I would not allow them to go on in this way, especially with regard to cane. Cane is a very lucrative proposition and you can imagine what 30 acres would produce—quite a considerable sum. An acre of cane will produce from 20 to 40 tons (cane), so on paper that man is going to make £200 to £300 a year. Well, if you are going to allow those people to go and acquire lands it is going to rapidly decrease the available area.

There is no increased activity in labour pursuits in that area, except in a portion of the Harding District; I know two tribes who are rather keen on labour. Speaking generally, there is not a tendency to go away to labour. They are well to do in stock. During

my time there has been railway construction going on and plenty of work available locally.

The areas I have spoken of are eminently suited for native occupation.

Mr. Marwick.] In regard to the lines of actual occupation, how would you describe the present occupation of these native areas?

Mr. Stuart.] They have no defined lines. That is a very big point. They are left to themselves.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you think it would be better to organise their dwellings into larger communities than they are at present?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, that is the crux of the whole question. In the Transkei, I believe, they are in larger communities. Their actual dwelling places are more or less concentrated into one locality. Certain areas are set aside for cultivation and certain other areas for residential purposes.

Mr. Marwick.] No effort has been made in Natal to do that?

Mr. Stuart.] No. There is a law, of course, in reference to kraals not consisting of less than four huts.

Mr. Marwick.] Is that being carried out?

Mr. Stuart.] No, not in my areas.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you see any reasonable obstacle to its being carried out?

Mr. Stuart.] No, there is no objection. There is a tendency of natives now to separate.

Mr. Marwick.] Are they fit to separate?

Mr. Stuart.] No, not in my opinion. That, I think, is the aftermath of taking away the power of chiefs and headmen, and so on.

Mr. Marwick.] The wish for individualism on the part of natives is the result of that, you say?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] If you were given a free hand to carry out a policy for the economical use of the land would you not yourself congregate them into larger communities?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, certainly.

Mr. Marwick.] It is natural to some extent for those natives to object possibly to live with a man of a different clan, but there is no reasonable objection—it is only a question of their preference—and in the common use of their cattle, ploughing implements, and so on, it would be an advantage for them to be congregated?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, a distinct advantage.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there not a settlement in the Province which could be called a closer settlement of natives?

Mr. Stuart.] No, there is none.

Mr. Marwick.] These mission stations, say in the Alexandra Division, could not be called a closer settlement?

Mr. Stuart.] They are just locations with a different name. It so happens in that area they are more closely settled. The land is very rich and will hold a big population, so they are closely settled there.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there increased activity on the part of the natives in agricultural pursuits?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, there is.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there a decrease in pastoral pursuits or an increase?

Mr. Stuart.] There is an increase, that is during my time. There has been a large increase in stock and it is increasing at the rate of something like 45 per cent.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you say there was a decrease in the wish to keep cattle on the part of the natives?

Mr. Stuart.] There is an increased wish.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you aware that the Government intend to cancel that regulation regarding kraals of four huts?

Mr. Stuart.] No.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you be in favour of its repeal?

Mr. Stuart.] No, except where "kolwas" are concerned, but under tribal conditions it should be carried out most emphatically.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think it would be an improvement if the allotment of land were in the hands of a European supervisor?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, because I think that the chief very frequently abuses his power and also neglects his duties.

Mr. Chapman.] There is no restriction with regard to the number of cattle or stock that a native may own in a location?

Mr. Stuart.] No, they are not getting crowded yet, but it is bound to come at the present rate of increase. I am talking of natural increase, not purchase, when I say 45 per cent. They are slaughtering a good many; they are getting to use meat more. That will keep the increase down to some extent.

Mr. Chapman.] A location supervisor takes no active steps or suggests nothing in the way of regulating the cattle?

Mr. Stuart.] No, so far nothing has been done in that regard. I suppose he would do if the position became acute.

I am sorry we keep no statistics as to the birth rate.

The rainfall is good.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you tell us, with regard to the natives you have had to deal with, whether you would say there is much desire on the part of individual natives to buy land in the areas you are familiar with?

Mr. Stuart.] Yes, from one portion—the "Kolwa" section—there is a big desire. The point was raised at the Ifafa Mission Reserve. We have residents there who own farms outside. They sub-let these farms and it does not seem right, somehow. I think it should be one thing or the other—either on the reserve or on their farm. On that small reserve there are eight owners of land outside the reserve. They pay 30s. on the reserve and make quite a good bit. I know a man who has a stand here in Maritzburg, which he has let, and pays 30s. a year down there.

Report of Evidence given by Mr. E. FitzGerald, late Chief Inspector of Native Locations and Mission Reserves, Natal, on 12th March, 1918, at Pietermaritzburg.

I was appointed in 1902. Originally there were three Location Inspectors and two Mission Reserve Supervisors. My first appointment was over half of Natal—the N.E. portion, on the Greytown side. We simply had to go wherever we were required to and in addition to collecting information for the head of the department, we dealt with roads, fencing, etc.

I put up various schemes at different times suggesting the sale in some instances of portions of locations and the acquiring of land for others, but they were not acceded to. There was the Zwartkop Location: I went very minutely into the question and prepared plans and maps shewing where land—Crown land and private farms—could be acquired and the price at which they could be bought. My idea was that we should acquire land round the larger locations and dispose of the smaller locations, thus consolidating the work.

By Mr. Marwick.] Yes, the rules for the management of locations were first introduced in 1896. They were amended and re-published in 1902. Mr. Samuelson drafted these rules and they were submitted to Mr. Bird, the Attorney-General.

Mr. Marwick.] What is your opinion of these rules—are they workable?

Mr. FitzGerald.] They have been practically a dead letter. I do not know why they have not been put into force. They work on the Code a good deal. The one regulation that has been used is the kraal regulation of not less than four huts.

Mr. Marwick.] Has that been carried out strictly?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, in some places the Magistrates have insisted on it, in others not.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think it would be a good thing to carry it out?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, I think that as long as the tribal system remains it is a good thing.

Mr. Marwick.] Then there appears to be no definite policy laid down in regard to the administration of these locations?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No.

Mr. Marwick.] Everything left to the chief?

Mr. FitzGerald.] And to the magistrate. The allocation of gardens is entirely in the hands of the chief.

Mr. Marwick.] Were you satisfied, from what you saw, that they were properly regulated?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, I was not satisfied at all. There was no method whatsoever in the placing of lands and until such time as it is placed under the supervision of Europeans the same position will obtain. As long as it is left to the native chiefs you will have the same inconsistent policy.

Mr. Marwick.] If you took the allocation of lands away from the native chiefs would there be any outcry?

Mr. FitzGerald.] The natives themselves would welcome it; they would be in favour of it, that is the bulk of the natives.

Mr. Chapman.] Has there been any continuity of policy with regard to these locations since you have been Chief Inspector, I mean by the various Chief Native Commissioners you have served under?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, there is no consistent policy laid down. They have all had their own views, and in lots of cases the incoming man has just done the opposite of what his predecessor has done. That has not tended to the good government of the natives, because they really do not know where they are.

Mr. Marwick.] Chiefs are to see that grazing land is kept distinct from arable land and no kraal is to be erected on commonage?

Mr. Fitzgerald.] There is a good deal of irregularity in that. As time goes on it gets worse, because land is not so easy to get.

Mr. Marwick.] Supposing you were embarking on a scheme for the better regulating of present locations, what measures would you take generally with a view to bringing about a better condition of things?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I should see what arable land there was and then move all the kraals dotted about thereon to land not suited for cultivation and try and condense them into larger kraals or into one area as much as possible. There need not be any difficulty. It would have to be uniform throughout the Colony and all the officers would have to work to that particular end. The trouble that you have now is that one official comes in and does one thing, and the next man does the reverse: there is no policy. Having set out proper grazing grounds for these people and having forced them to conserve building and arable land you would then decide how much land they would take for cultivation. I consider that two acres per hut is ample for all native requirements.

Mr. Chapman.] That would not apply throughout the whole of these locations? Don't these locations vary considerably in the richness of the soil.

Mr. FitzGerald.] The man that is in poorer location is nearer to civilization, as a rule. He should cultivate his land and manure it. They have the manure; all they have to do is to carry it on to the land.

Mr. Chapman.] How many inmates do you estimate to a hut?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Four—that is the average.

Mr. Chapman. What grazing land would you set aside for each hut on the average?

Mr. FitzGerald.] That would depend upon the district and upon what was available. All the land not used for building sites and arable land would be for grazing until more arable land was required. The tendency of the native to-day is not to cultivate. They are cultivating less than they were when I was a boy 40 years ago. Droughts account for that. The people are going out more to work and the women are lazy.

Mr. Chapman.] Would not that be due to the fact that they lost their cattle first from Rinderpest and then from East Coast Fever and the women resented going back to hand work?

Mr. FitzGerald.] It might be to some extent. I think they take the line of least resistance—it is easier to buy mealies than rely on cultivation, because now they do not get a good season once in five years.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you fence the grazing lands off?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Either fence the arable land, which would be more easily fenced, or else the grazing lands, but that need not necessarily follow at once—you could do that by degrees.

Mr. Chapman.] Under the existing state of affairs there is a very great waste of land in all these locations, due to the fact that residents in the locations pick and hoe wherever they wish, leaving very considerable spaces of grazing and arable land in between?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, absolutely. If a kraal has a death they move their kraal to probably a mile away and no one is allowed to cultivate in between. As long as that kraal exists they stick to their old gardens and the land in between is wasted.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you think this sentimental attachment to their fathers' graves would interfere in any way with the scheme which you mentioned of getting them together?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, not at all. If a native gets turned off Crown Lands or a farm he does not worry any more about his grave sites. It is only a bit of sentiment which is worked on. I do not think it constitutes a practical difficulty at all.

Mr. Marwick.] And your experience confirms that belief—that it is dying out as a binding sentiment?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you come across cases where other natives have utilized land which has been allotted to others who have left or moved their kraals?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, they give it to one another, but the land is always looked upon as belonging to the original kraal that held it.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it not the policy in Natal for the chief to lay off the arable land for a kraal?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Under the regulations they have sole autocratic power to do it. They still do it. If a native wants to move from one chief to another he pays the "valelisa" fee, and he has got to ask for permission from the man he wishes to go under (he does not pay for that) and they accept or reject him.

Mr. Marwick.] You would be in favour of a regulation laying down a specific area for each native, not leaving it as it is—"arable land sufficient for the household," would you?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, and let the balance remain fallow.

Mr. Chapman.] Could you give us any estimate of the land they do use or waste at present?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, it would be entirely guess work. It is common practice to leave fields fallow, and no one else would be allowed to cultivate that field, even if it laid fallow for 10 years.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there any settlement on any existing native location which could be called a closer settlement of natives?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, none. As regards mission reserves, they have been putting off the evil day from year to year, and I believe they have now commenced a scheme at Ifafa, but previous to this the Department made certain recommendations as to cutting up the land into individual lots, the question of land tenure to be left in abeyance, but each native to be allotted his ten acres and to pay 30s. per hut until such time as there was some policy formulated.

Mr. Marwick.] Your object being to let each native know what portion of land he could use?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Exactly, and at the same time there was a suggestion made that if any man felt he was making good use of the land and wanted an additional plot he be allowed to cultivate the lot on a yearly tenancy. The ten-acre plots were for each individual kraal head. I hold the view, gentlemen, that the kraal or raw native on the mission reserves should not be there. I maintain that those mission reserves should be reserves for the Christian natives, and that the kraal native has had 60 years in which to become a Christian—it is no hardship for him to remain in the location.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it within your knowledge that these holders of mission reserve plots hold private land outside?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, some of them hold farms which they lease out to other natives. There is a concrete case on the Ifafa and also on the Amanzimtoti Reserve: certain lots were sold to the natives in freehold and some of the owners have leased their lots and squat on the reserve. The same applies at Charlottedale, near to Stanger, where there are some Europeans now.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you known of any cases where natives sub-let to Indians?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, there was a case at Ifumi and one at Amanzimtoti, in fact everywhere where they have freehold they sub-let. The chief at Amanzimtoti sub-let his portion to an Arab storekeeper. They could not sell to any but a native.

Mr. Marwick.] The Indians to whom they had sub-let before may stay on, but no fresh Indians may come on because of the Land Act?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, there was a case recently where a man was punished for letting his lot at Ifumi to an Indian.

Mr. Chapman.] Reverting for a moment to these rules for locations, it distinctly states here: "Sanction shall not be given to the erection of any kraal of less than four huts"—it has not been strictly adhered to?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, in fact it is a dead letter. It applies to all locations pretty well. Some magistrates have enforced this regulation. Mr. Arthur Shepstone circularised magistrates that it must be carried out to conserve land. He was very insistent that it should be done during his time. Those who followed Mr. Shepstone have not carried out the same policy.

Mr. Chapman.] You are aware that very considerable waste of land occurs as a result of single huts being allowed?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, a very considerable wastage. The native himself says that it tends to crime, also he is under no control.

Mr. Chapman.] Were cases of sheep or stock theft traced to men who have one hut?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I have no knowledge of this. It does not come under my Department.

Mr. Marwick.] Your policy would be to link them up in closer communities for residential purposes?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes. I do not hold with the view that the enlightened native should be allowed to live in locations and upset all arrangements. The objection these men raise is—why should they be subject to the kraal-head when they are Christians and civilized? They go in for individualism. That man causes more trouble in the location than 50 kraals. His proper place is in the mission reserve. All the natives who wish to advance themselves should be on the mission reserves.

The Chairman.] Don't you find in some native reserves the chiefs are getting Christianised, and in some cases their followers are doing the same?

Mr. FitzGerald.] There are a few, but the great majority of the native chiefs are not Christians. They object to it because it does away with their power at once.

The Chairman.] But there are cases of it?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, there are Christian chiefs, but the larger tribes all stick to the old native customs.

Mr. Marwick.] From your observations as being in charge of the locations would you say that there is adequate land in native areas to meet the needs and present requirements of the natives as judged by the present numbers in actual and beneficial occupation of the land?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, the land is more than adequate.

Mr. Marwick.] Would it be sufficient in your opinion, if properly managed, to provide for the estimated annual increase for 10 years?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, certainly. I should say 50 years. If the native population on

private farms is going to be disturbed to any great extent then I would qualify that. I am speaking purely of the increase in locations as they exist at present.

Mr. Marwick.] That applies to the whole of Natal?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] You are not speaking for the moment of mission reserves—what is your opinion as regards them; are they adequate for the present policy?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes. It just depends what you are going to do with mission reserves. If you are going to keep them higgledy-piggledy—Christians and raw natives—you are going to reduce the capacity, but if you are going to establish proper places for the enlightened natives, then you have adequate land there for the next 50 years. Many of these mission reserves are conveniently situated close to the labour centres and the people won't require land for agriculture at all, if they have an acre or two and can see their families.

Mr. Chapman.] It has been suggested to us that there are ample lands there which natives might wish to purchase, on mission reserves, that is basing it on the numbers of acres that they have purchased in the last 20 or 30 years. What are your views as to purchase?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I do not think myself that the native has reached that state of civilization where he can be trusted with the dignity of owning land. He may reach that in the next 50 years. I would be in favour of their having leasehold, that is practically a perpetual lease, but I would not give them freehold. It has been proved to be ruinous in the past to the native.

Mr. Chapman.] Even if he was guarded against that?

Mr. FitzGerald.] It would be such a costly machinery to guard against that that the experiment would not be worth it. I am in favour of a perpetual lease subject to good behaviour and so on. No, I would not allow the educated native to buy land. They are so much in the minority that they are not worth considering at present.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you had any experience of natives who have bought farms and and lost them?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, there are scores of them. A very small percentage of them retain the land they originally bought. Most of them take up too much land and cannot meet the instalments. When they have bought farms from Europeans they have invariably lost their land. Syndicates have always ended in trouble, and in most cases they have lost their land. I do not think the "Driefontein" settlement is doing as well as people think. I was round there, and there seems to be a good deal of rack-renting, and the rank and file do not really seem satisfied, although they would not give any information about it.

Mr. Marwick.] In regard to mission reserves, was it suggested that they should be cut up into 10 acre allotments?

Mr. FitzGerald.] The Umvoti is one. That is where one-third of the land has already been given out to natives in freehold.

Mr. Marwick.] What are your observations there in regard to the freeholders?

Mr. FitzGerald.] At the present time they are planting cane, which is a very good price now, but they are not making the use of the land they might make of it. The colony is not receiving the return off that land that it should receive. The allotments are 15 to 20 acres. A lot of them squat on the reserve and cultivate all the land.

Mr. Chapman.] Is there any attempt on the part of the department in regard to giving them advice?

Mr. Fitzgerald.] Yes, one or two schemes have been put forward for consolidating the cane land in one block, and the policy was to cut up a compact block of land into 10 acre blocks for cane planting and at the same time these people were to give up their holdings in the reserve and come and live in the village where they would get a building plot of one or two acres.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think a native can cultivate properly 10 acres of cane?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No. My own private candid opinion, gentlemen, is that I would not have them plant cane at all. I do not think it is kind to these people to give them a sort of independence for two or three years, and when sugar goes down again they will have to turn to and work.

Mr. Marwick.] The allotment of these areas which have been cut up was held up on the advice of the missionaries?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, they asked the Government distinctly to hold their hand owing to the fact that they lost control of the natives. Once they got freehold title they could not get them off the reserves.

Mr. Chapman.] Would you say that it has proved to be a sound policy to make these allotments?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, I say positively that the native has not reached that stage when he can be trusted with freehold tenure of land.

The Chairman.] Would there not be a chance of his progressing faster under this system?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, but I think there would be by giving him lots in perpetual leasehold, or, say, for a certain number of years and then to get freehold tenure. For

administrative reasons also, once you give them freehold title you cannot deal with these people. You would have to re-construct the whole of your administration.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it not a fact that on some mission reserves the arrear rents are very considerable and that these men are being sued monthly for them?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, there is a universal policy of suing. The department is suing them through a lawyer. The rents are 30s.

Mr. Chapman.] Through casual administration they have been allowed to accumulate?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes. In cases where they are absolutely unable to pay they write it off. The money does not go to revenue; it is supposed to be spent on the reserve. It is an accumulating fund. The arrears were standing at about £38,000.

Mr. Chapman.] How much of that do they estimate they will get?

Mr. FitzGerald.] They estimated 75 per cent., but I think from the way things are going they may get 50 per cent. That money is to be utilized for works of utility on the reserve. Half of the gross amount collected is handed over to the missionary in the particular reserve.

Mr. Chapman.] Referring to Location No. 3, which is somewhat thinly populated at present, you remember a scheme was suggested to us that that should revert and other lands should be given to the natives there? What are your views?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I think it should revert and the Ifafa Mission Reserve as well. The latter is too valuable to be wasted on natives, and I do not think it is in the interests of the natives to be a small community surrounded entirely by Europeans. The railway line runs along the edge of the reserve. I should say you would get £15 an acre to-day for that land (Ifafa Mission Reserve); £10 you could get without asking for it. At the present day I believe the Illovo Sugar Co. pay a rental of 15s. per acre per annum for land which is not equal to the Ifafa land. Location No. 3 is very thinly populated indeed, and one reason is that it is high veld and natives do not care to go on it except near the streams. There was a scheme that that land should revert to the Crown and the natives should get land up the Umkomaas Valley, where there is 16,000 acres of Crown Land which the Government has been trying to sell at 10s. an acre. For natives this land would be much better for them. Reserve No. 3 is rather poor and would need fertilizing.

By Mr. Chapman.] If the natives were fairly treated and compensated I do not think there would be any great objection.

Mr. Marwick.] You say that you think the natives are ploughing and planting less than they used to: are they going in for cattle more or less than they did years ago?

Mr. FitzGerald.] That is difficult to say, but they are going in very largely for cattle. At the present rate there is likely to be an increase.

Mr. Chapman.] Are there no restrictions as to the number they may keep?

Mr. FitzGerald.] That will work out its own salvation. They won't be able to support the cattle and the cattle will die out. That will simply right itself. Prior to Rinderpest they had ample room for cattle.

By the Chairman.] No, they won't sell; they would rather see them die of poverty—they get the "ngcuba" (carrion) then.

Mr. Marwick.] What is your view with regard to the recommended areas—do you think that the natives will avail themselves of the opportunity to buy?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I do not think so; not as a general rule.

Mr. Marwick.] The result will be that those lands will lie idle for years to come?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes. If I may be allowed to express an opinion many lands are totally unfit for natives and natives will never live on them. For instance, the Berg Lands. The population of our location in that part works out at 150 acres per hut. Then, on the other hand, taking in that land on the North Coast—none of that land should be taken in at all. I reckon that the location boundaries here should never have been interfered with. Any surplus of natives could easily be accommodated in the large reserves.

Mr. Chapman.] Did you give evidence before the Beaumont Commission?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No. The various officials prepared statements and the head of the Department (Mr. Addison) gave evidence.

Mr. Chapman.] Would you be in favour of natives being allowed to purchase land in locations?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, but I would be in favour of cutting the land up and giving them sites. I do not think the rank and file of natives to-day are in favour of any individual tenure, because they feel that if they had these lots allocated to them the Government would say: "You have got to stay there."

Mr. Chapman.] I take it that you go further and say there is no need for any of these additional areas in Natal at all?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Not unless the farms are going to be fully occupied and the natives on them are displaced, when provision must be made for them.

The Chairman.] Don't you think the natives so displaced will mostly go to the towns?

Mr. FitzGerald.] No, I do not think so. For the last few years we have had a large influx of natives from farms to locations. If you are going to displace the 60 per cent. on private farms you would not have room for them and the natural increase.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think this Bill will have a very big effect on natives as regards moving?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I do not think so, if it was done gradually.

Mr. Marwick.] How many years would it take?

Mr. FitzGerald.] It just depends how much you are prepared to spend on it. The reserves would accommodate a very large percentage, but without allowing for any natural increase. I favour the idea of the Government adding land to the locations rather than to have these areas where a native can buy. A good deal of the land I have in view is Crown Land and a lot of it is land which you could get from the Europeans at a reasonable rate. I do not think a man should be allowed to get a fictitious price for his land because the Government happened to want it. Our scheme at the Zwartkop was to get 167,000 acres for the 60,000 up there.

Mr. Marwick.] Is there any land in these recommended areas which you consider should be included?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Yes, the land in Klip River County adjoining Umsinga Location, and in Weenen County adjoining Mpofana Location, also in Krantzkop Division—round Impanza way a lot of land should be included.

Mr. Chapman.] Where you have Europeans who have owned and occupied land for many years, how would you treat them?

Mr. FitzGerald.] I should say that as we want that land those people should be paid out at full value for their land, and they should be given an opportunity of acquiring land elsewhere. I do not think a man has any reason to complain if he is paid fair compensation. I should say—we are going to provide you with money because we are going to throw open Location No. 3, on the coast, for example.

As regards Alexandra Division, I think these farms—"Crowder," "Fountain Head," "Ellingham," etc.—should remain in. You cannot put Crooks' in; he would have to be cut out. "Golden Valley" is already under sugar; you could cut that out. The Agricultural Society's proposition is practicable from their point of view. Taking into consideration that the Europeans in the back parts there are not doing any good, I am in favour of leaving that part in native area. I think the whole main middle portion of Area No. 17 should stand as native area and the Europeans be compensated fully.

Mr. Chapman.] How does it appeal to you as a neutral area?

Mr. FitzGerald.] That would be a good solution out of the difficulty.

Mr. Chapman.] How do the locations lend themselves to closer settlement?

Mr. FitzGerald.] Location No. 4 is a very broken one. No. 5 is suitable, practically the whole of it, though it is not rich soil. No. 3 would also, as well as the Umtwalumi Mission Reserve and Location No. 8. No. 7 would in portions—on the tops and down towards Hlokozi. In 6*a* there are small portions. Location No. 2 is suitable, especially the southern portion; the northern portion is very broken. The whole of No. 1 Location (Alexandra) lends itself to closer settlement. The Crown Lands adjoining are suitable in parts and suitable for irrigation also. I do not agree with a long straggling area like the Umkomaas, except where it joins up the Locations (2 and 6). The whole of the Umlazi Location lends itself splendidly to closer settlement. It would carry a very large population of natives. It is not thickly populated at present.

The Umsinga is quite well watered. In the Mpofana there are irrigation works. The Mapumulo Location is good, also the Ndwedwe—it is fairly broken in places, but there is a lot of land which could be utilized for closer settlement. The Impendhle would stand a good deal more closer settlement—there are thousands of acres with not a kraal on it. The Berg Locations can carry a lot more population. The Upper Tugela Location is very sparsely populated—the average is 150 acres per hut. The Tabamhlope could carry a great deal more population; it lends itself to closer settlement.

I know from my own personal experience that the berg lands recommended are absolutely unsuitable for native occupation.

The locations in Harding County can carry a larger population. It is good land and lends itself to closer settlement, especially Nos. 1 and 2. I would leave the half-caste area in Alfred County in native area. In the Bulwer Location there are thousands of acres without a native on them.

Irrigation lots are held under an annual tenure. If they don't live up to their responsibilities they can be turned out. The principal trouble there is the collection of the rent, which is £3 per plot. It was a failure at first, but they realize the utility of it now. They grow mealies, beans, peas, and a few onions. The Circle Engineer of the Irrigation Department advises from time to time. The rent obtained from these plots does not cover interest on the outlay. They are not self-supporting. The capital expenditure was fabulous.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there is a tendency to go and live in towns. At most townships they lay out a native quarter, and there seems to be a desire to settle there.

The Zwartkop Location is not thickly populated; it runs about 30 acres per hut, if not more. There is one corner fairly thickly populated.

The natives are increasing to a considerable extent.

Report of Evidence of C. A. Wheelwright, Esq., C.M.G., Chief Native Commissioner, Natal, taken at Pietermaritzburg on 12th and 13th March, 1918.

Mr. WHEELWRIGHT.] Roughly, the beneficial occupation, would be divided into two parts, *i.e.*, the keeping of stock and the arable side of it. Occupation in the native reserves, I take it, would be called beneficial, such as it is; it is not beneficial, probably, from the European point of view.

It is known to you that natives live in villages—may be one, two, three or more (we have up to as many as 22) huts, but the large majority run at about three, four and five. These people cultivate per hut roughly three acres; I should not put it more than three acres at the very outside for the ordinary kraal native. In their cultivation of the ground there is, generally, no question of manuring it or improving the ground in any way and the result is that poor ground very soon wears out and the individual turns to another piece of ground, so that in the course of time a large extent of country is claimed by that particular kraal. They maintain the ground simply by allowing it to remain fallow and recover itself until they require it again.

Then they carry a fair number of stock. The native locations to-day in Natal and Zululand are carrying just over a quarter of a million of horned stock. These are actual figures from the dipping records. Of the small stock we have not too good an estimate, but we put these down at from three-quarters to a million—I should think a million would be nearer the point.

In certain locations nature has lent portions of the locations to the better economy of land, I think. You have lands which are exclusively useful for grazing purposes and not useful for arable purposes, not without artificial manure. In some locations localities have been set apart exclusively for grazing purposes and no habitation is permitted there, or it is avoided as much as possible. You get again other locations nearer the coast or the middle veld and the thorn veld where the whole of the ground is useful arably. It is there where you get what closer settlement there is generally. In the high veld the locations are where arable lands are scarcer than they would be in this richer veld. It is there that you get bigger stads or villages. That is the general occupation of the majority of the locations where the people are unsophisticated and still in their original state of living. In some of these reserves you get a small settlement of "Kolwa" (Christian) or advanced natives. They are very limited so far, but there you will see a considerably different method of cultivating the ground. They stick more to their land and adopt artificial maintenance of the ground; it is occurring in a greater or lesser degree.

You come to the Mission Reserves. Some of the description I have given you of the occupation of locations agrees, not, I should say, to a great extent. The people there are much more advanced. There is less land per head and the people have taken to a more definite sort of tenure of the ground. Their houses are more permanent. Some of them have fenced their places in and, whether by their own management or by the direction of supervisors or others, a considerable number of them are now confined to a specified and limited amount of ground. There, the agriculture is considerably in advance of the native locations.

The Chairman.] Where are these places where they are more advanced?

Mr. Wheelwright.] If you take the Amanzimtoti, the natives there have as much as 1,300 acres of cane growing. In addition to that they go in fairly largely for better mealie and crop growing, and are more systematic. Then you come to the Ifafa, where there is probably about 300 acres of cane growing at the present time. There they show a very distinct advance in the whole of their methods of cultivation. The Umvoti Mission Reserve for years past has been a cane-growing centre. I am afraid it is not up to what it should be, but I think it is quite capable of very great advancement by closer supervision, which we are rather hoping to be able to give to the place in view of our having funds. You take the cultivation on some reserves in the Inanda; they are considerably better than you find them on the ordinary native location. In the Mapumulo, when I was there some little time back, under missionary direction and influence, I found the lands there better cultivated, better shaped, better ploughed, and with better results generally. The Ifafa at the present moment is being cut up into individual holdings.

By Mr. Chapman.] We are basing the holdings, according to survey and the nature of the ground, up to about 8 or 10 acres per family. In the Ifafa Mission Reserve we find some people who are cultivating as much as 30 acres, others with 10, 15 and 20 acres.

Mr. Chapman.] Would 8 or 9 acres be the average generally in a mission reserve?

Mr. Wheelwright.] In a place like Ifafa we think the allowance is liberal. I am perfectly certain in other reserves 8 acres would not maintain there. Probably in the Mapumulo, the Greytown, and the thorn districts, I doubt very much whether you could cut the whole place up.

In the Ifafa we are laying out a fair-sized township on to which we want to move natives, and there it is proposed to give them a two-acre lot with the idea of turning the whole reserve into cane, if possible. We suggest two acres, so as to enable them to go in for their ordinary green vegetable food. There will be a commonage attached to that and the idea is not only to accommodate natives who may be there in the village, but to take on others who may come on afterwards.

By Mr. Chapman.] On the average, it would not work out at 10 acres. We have one man who has over 30 acres. He and two or three adjoining natives co-operate. I take it they would have to employ labour when it came to reaping.

Mr. Chapman.] Can the average native, in your opinion, employ labour ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I was down at the Inanda recently and I called upon quite a number of educated natives there. I found one man employing 6 or 8 natives. He had his place all over planted with mealies.

Mr. Chapman.] But, generally speaking, the educated native is not capable of employing labour ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not know that he has been an employer of labour. I take it that the idea is not that he will cultivate the 8 acres in one year ; he will cultivate half, so as to get a revenue each year.

Mr. Chapman.] So you think the average per hut in the other Mission Reserves is about 7 or 8 acres ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I would not care to say that. It depends entirely on the nature of the soil. Umtwalumi is good, and the Ifumi and Ifafa are good, but at the Umvoti, when you get away from the river, it is extremely sour veld and inclined to be sandy. I think it is possible you would find that 8 to 10 acres would probably be the average. It is roughly, what is given in the Transkei, but then, of course, in dealing with the Transkei you have a flatter country.

Mr. Chapman.] And it is better country on the whole ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, it might be.

Mr. Wheelwright.] In Zululand you have the Impapala Settlement, which consists of 85 plots varying in extend from 9 to 35 acres, with a total of 2,638 acres. There are 13 commonages evenly distributed over the whole settlement, varying in extent from 11 to 150 acres, with a total of 694 acres, thus leaving 1,944 acres for actual occupation. The blocks are all taken up.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, that is the only settlement in Zululand. More or less it has been in existence for many years. It was surveyed since the demarcation of the Reserves in Zululand, a matter of 12 or more years ago, but those particular natives were immigrants from Natal. They settled there when it was unoccupied country more or less.

Mr. Marwick.] Have they individual title or a sort of leasehold title ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] What they call an Occupation Certificate. It is a perpetual lease, subject to revocation for non-compliance with certain conditions ; conditions, such as beneficial occupation and punctual payment of rent, and commission of certain crimes and offences, such as rebellion and conviction under the Liquor Laws—but it is virtually a perpetual lease.

By Mr. Chapman.] They have never asked for permission to sub-let and the men are still holding their plots. They are doing very fairly well indeed. They have planted trees and have gone in somewhat extensively for agriculture. They have got their dip.

Mr. Chapman.] A sort of thing to be encouraged ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think so, decidedly, wherever the land is suitable and adaptable. It is a thing which is going to be a very slow process, but it is quite capable of being commenced.

The Chairman.] It need not be so very slow.

Mr. Wheelwright.] It will be slow in getting the people to accept it. These people were advanced people, but suppose you go to some of the locations it would be different. We shall have to go gingerly about it there.

You have, first of all, to provisionally inspect the ground and talk to the people. Then the surveyor comes along and he makes a preliminary survey. That has to be confirmed by the Government. You have then got to hear complaints, and take evidence and so on as to various objections. Then the actual survey itself will probably run into 4 or 5 months with one mission reserve, so that if we are to do the whole 146,000 acres of mission reserves it is going to take us all our time.

Mr. Marwick.] I take it that these people are given lots on which they reside and cultivate as well. Eight to ten acres would be inclusive of residential plots ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It might or might not. In the case of cane cultivation we would try and get the man to go into the village, if there were no reason that he should not settle there.

Mr. Marwick.] You have no definite rule ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, that has to be governed by the Surveyor and our representative there at the time. If it is possible to get the man away from the cane it would be safer, to guard against fire, for instance, but if the man wants to remain there and I see that the nature

of the country lends itself—that a piece of rough ground for residential purposes might be attached—then it might be done, but there is no hard and fast rule.

There is another settlement in Dunn's Reserve. They are not strictly natives but they are natives under the Act. Their settlement consists of 100 acre plots, which are being measured out for them.

Mr. Marwick.] Have they a commonage or just given a bare 100 acres ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] They have a commonage in this way—that their 100 acres was cut out on the outer survey of the land, leaving the inner unalienated, and it is being used at present as a commonage. There is no other use for it once the claims to the 100 acres apiece have been settled. It is not clear whether the claimants will take them all up or not, in which case there will be a surplus which will probably be turned into a commonage.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you any estimate as to the extra number of natives that you will be able to put into mission reserves if they are cut up into approximately 10 acre blocks ? If they get 10 acres apiece there won't be much land available.

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I don't think so. Where you have a polygamist family living in these reserves each of the wives has to be treated as a separate family. We would not give extra land to new-comers.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it the intention of the Government to allow these raw natives to remain there ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think so. Not in all cases, but in certain. The missionaries have countenanced it to a certain extent in so far as they have taken their families and educated them.

Mr. Chapman.] They have not countenanced it more with a view to taking land for them ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I do not think so. It was very hard to get these people to leave the place, but they have taken to the children in the hope that they will grow up non-polygamists.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you not had any objection to this scheme from the polygamists ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, at Ifafa at the present moment we have an objection, but then they came along very shortly afterwards and wanted to know what they, as polygamists, would get as compared with non-polygamists.

By the Chairman.] In the Transkei they have treated each of these polygamist families as so many different families ; each hut has got a separate piece.

By Mr. Chapman.] The population per hut, according to our figures, is 3·9.

Mr. Chapman.] Is that borne out by your experience of these mission reserves ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Fairly so, I think.

Mr. Chapman.] The "Kolwa" is not more prolific, then, than his heathen neighbour, or *vice-versa ?*

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should say he is about the same. They would probably bring up more children, I should think, than the raw native. They would be better nourished and better looked after, I think.

Mr. Chapman.] That really works out that your 10 acres will just carry a family and that you have no surplus ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I was rather in hopes that we would have a surplus at Ifafa, but there won't be much. We are giving a fairly big commonage to the village in the hope that anybody who wants to go into the place afterwards will be able to get a building site in the village but not get the arable part.

Mr. Chapman.] You don't think 10 acres is an excessive area to give these people ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I don't think so. A man who is going to plant sugar, for instance, will have to handle half of it—say 5 acres—a year, to get his revenue. That type of native, of course, has living requirements more than the others : he dresses better and puts up a decent house. Men of that type won't come out too well on £50 or £60 a year.

By the Chairman.] His sons will have to look after themselves when they grow up. I don't think 10 acres will allow of cutting up into a denser settlement. I think there is little doubt that many of these places will ultimately turn into native cities or villages with just a bare bit of ground for vegetable growing, and so on. These people have just over 1,000 head of stock in the location to-day.

Mr. Chapman.] You have not worked out any scheme for these other locations with regard to the acreage per hut which would be required ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, we have gone roughly on the basis of 8 to 10 acres.

Mr. Chapman.] You treat them on much the same lines as the Ifafa people ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, where the ground lends itself to it.

Mr. Chapman.] Take the Mooi River or Tugela thorns, would you give them the same acreage there ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am afraid that would have to be dealt with on its merits. I would not lay down a hard and fast rule. At the Irrigation Works we give them one acre and some of them have two. There are 1,900 acres in the Tugela Works and 1,700 in the Mooi River.

I think you would have to take 100 or 150 acres in each case which is not capable of irrigation. Well, that settlement is doing uncommonly well—not as well as Europeans would do, but still doing uncommonly well for a settlement like that. We have instances where men have produced as much as £30 from a single acre, from peas.

By the Chairman.] In some of these locations it is going to be absolutely impossible to get individual settlement, except for villages and perhaps arable land such as irrigation works. The Irrigation Works is the granary of both these locations—the rest of the land there is practically an arid wilderness.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you propose to have an agriculturalist of any kind in this Ifafa Reserve to teach these men ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes. The experimental station is at Adams' Mission. That is contributed to by the funds of mission reserves. and they send their scholars there to the industrial school. We have not got a supervisor for the Ifafa in actual working at present, but as soon as the thing settles down to a proper survey we will pay a man out of funds to coach these people and see they carry out their part.

Mr. Marnick.] In fixing 9 acres, what have you been guided by there—not necessarily in respect to Ifafa alone, but I understand you to say that 9 acres would be the probable amount a heathen would get ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] We first of all took the Transkei, which lays it down at 4 morgen, or 8·4 acres. This area was also recommended by the South African Native Affairs Commission for the whole of South Africa. (Report 1903-05, Section 1 (*c*), paragraph 162, page 29.)

Mr. Marwick.] But are the natives of the Transkei not rather on a different footing ? For instance, the natives here cultivate 3 acres per family ; if you give them 9 per family, is it not going to be an excessive amount ? I think the Transkei natives are generally recognised as a more progressive people.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Don't you think it is due rather to their having the opportunities for it ?

Mr. Marwick.] Is it not going to be difficult to take a step backward ? If you give these people 9 acres—you know how perverse they are—and later on have occasion to alter that because they are not using the 9 acres or they are not living up to their opportunities, is it not going to cause a lot of dissatisfaction then ? Would it not be better to fix it in relation to their present needs, even by saying 5 acres ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I did not give a very definite statement as to the question of native reserves.

Mr. Chapman.] Have you been to the Transkei ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, not to look at the land they are actually cultivating.

Mr. Marwick.] There is another aspect to the thing : you give a man fixity of tenure, which is going to make him a very much better citizen than a man who is there at the will of the Chief or someone who is going to interfere with him. I think it is shown in the history of most troubles in South Africa that the landowner has kept out of trouble with the Government where it has been possible. Take the Natal Rebellion—I am told that practically no land-owners went into rebellion. If the man is satisfied and knows it belongs to him he can naturally improve it more than the man who is there at the whim of the Chief.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am not committing myself to the extent of land for the native locations in the scheme, because it is not sufficiently developed. There are some that I am perfectly certain could not be treated as settlements. At Mooi River the eye has been picked out and the rest can only be used communally. I think if you came to go over the ground very carefully you would find that there is a very, very limited quantity that is capable of it. Take the Impofana and the Tugela Locations ; get into portions of the Helpmakaar Location, on the Sundays and Buffalo Rivers and on parts of the Umsinga Mountain, and then you get into the Umvoti Location near the Krantzkop, also the Indwedwe Location—there is a vast amount of land there not capable of cultivation except by mere scratching. The slope is too great in many places—if there was rain the inclination would be to wash the ground away, and also it is very stony in parts. Whatever amount is arrived at for these Locations, if the time for individual settlement does come, the question would have to be gone into very carefully.

By Mr. Chapman.] It would be better to go on the small side, perhaps, than give them more than they need. Of course, as long as they are a pastoral people you would have to consider the question of commonages for grazing.

Mr. Chapman.] You don't propose to fence these areas in the Ifafa in any way ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] They are fenced externally ; internally they can fence if they like.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you laying off a commonage in addition to the allotments ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, there will be a residential area, in which it will be fairly big—not so much for present needs as for the future. That township, I think, is bound to increase in size from the natural increase of the lot-holders themselves. In addition, there will be,

probably, two or three small commonages for the purpose of oxen and other stock being grazed, and so on.

Mr. Marwick.] Can you give us any figures as to the estimated annual increase in the native population ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Taking the 1904 census figures as the basis and adding excess births over deaths in Natal. and adding a proportional figure in Zululand. where registration is not in practice, the annual increase for the 10 years up to and including 1913 was 170,900 people. To go back beyond 1904 would be unreliable. These increases can be taken as more than substantially correct.

(Considerable discussion took place here as to the accuracy of the figures shown in the Census returns of 1904 and 1911, which differ considerably from the figures given above.)

Mr. Wheelwright.] In the case of the deaths. the numbers vary for different years. I am not prepared to account for the difference in the figures.

Mr. Marwick.] Have you figures as to the number of natives who have gone away for mining, manufacturing and other labour pursuits ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Unfortunately we have not any statistics beyond taking the outward passes for labour. We have taken these for the last five years ; there were

38,866	in	1913	for labour,	10,082	for other purposes.
34,483	,,	1914	,,	8,670	,,
38,976	,,	1915	,,	7,404	,,
29,521	,,	1916	,,	7,710	,,
34,837	,,	1917	,,	7,508	,,

You have totals running from 37,000 up to 48,000 per annum, which bear out very largely what I have been told : that on the Reef you have 15,000 to 18,000 natives from Natal at any one time and that their contracts run at about six months.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think many of these people remain there and fail to return ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I would not say a big proportion, but a number do stay away permanently. I should not be inclined to say that there were many.

By Mr. Marwick.] From observations I should say that there has been an increase in going to labour centres in Natal. There has been some mining development, greater sugar development and industrial development generally in Natal.

Mr. Marwick.] What is your opinion as to the increase or decrease in pastoral pursuits by the natives ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] There are no actual figures as regards that. It is a matter of observation, and as regards pastoral pursuits it is certainly increasing. There were 47,000 cattle in locations in Natal in 1915, 67,000 in 1916 and 87,000 in 1917—that is an increase of roughly 20,000 a year. To-day we have got up to 250,000, divided almost equally between Natal and Zululand.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think that with the increased wealth in cattle the native will have a tendency to stay at home more and be less likely to go to work ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Of course the Natal native is apt to change, but at present he is very loth to part with his cattle. If these were Transvaal Basutos I should say they would because they sell their stock. As soon as a beast gets to a saleable age they sell it. But the Zulu hangs on to his stock ; they won't sell if they can possibly help it. Those areas have got their limits ; they won't be able to run to the enormous herds of cattle of former years. Those men are now confined to fixed locations.

Mr. Chapman.] You cannot control the number of cattle they own ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That will control itself economically. They could only keep a limited number because the ground would not carry more, and as each new man comes into the location he takes up a bit of ground. I think they will ultimately get like the other people and get a less number of good stock and get more out of them.

Mr. Marwick.] Has the Department any information with regard to the climate, soil and water supply of the suggested native areas ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] The reports which were asked for were sent direct to the Commission. One could give a description of any particular area. Some areas are particularly dry. That area which is recommended above the Sunday's River is particularly arid and dry—Area No. 6.

The areas that have been recommended for Natal towards the Sunday's River and towards the Tugela in the neighbourhood of Weenen, and Ladysmith to my mind are probably as poor country as you will get in most places. I do not think it does lend itself to closer settlement except communal settlement in dumping a lot of people down and telling them to do the best they can. You are not going to improve present day conditions by it. Some of these farms are good, but some overlooking the Krantzkop are the worst parts of the location. Some of these lands I saw on the Umzimkulu were just about as wild as you could possibly get, with very deep slopes which are occupied by nobody. Some of those krantzes the

natives have described pretty correctly as "ingedhle," and the locality is totally unfitted for closer settlement and any occupation except the perpetuation of probably an undesirable system. One or two farms in the top end of Area No. 6, towards Helpmakaar, might be made use of and some of those farms in the Umkomaas might be made use of, but even that is terribly rough, steep country and does not lend itself to closer settlement. As regards Vryheid, that long area—Inhlazatshe towards Ngomi—is a very fair bit of ground indeed. I think there you could bring about quite a fair closer settlement. I had occasion to go over some of the farms in the lower end; the ground is fairly level, but very stony; still it is not to be compared with the ground on the Sunday's River. That bit of ground between the Mkuzi and Pongolo in Ngotshe Division is very rough, dry, stony, and in many parts perfectly useless. A good deal of the ground that we saw when we went to "Magut," and right down to the Mkuzi, is capable of producing very fine crops. The rainfall is irregular, but I believe a great deal of it could be utilized for native settlement. There is the question of malarial fever which would have to be borne in mind. The majority of those farms are occupied by natives to-day, not densely, but they are there.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think natives from Natal would buy land there?

Mr. Wheelwright.] You take those natives who occupy the Impapala Settlement; they were Natal natives. I think if the Government were dealing with that land in those places the Natal native would be attracted to them. There is an idea, of course, that the Natal native would not come to Zululand; that he would be afraid of the Zulu, but that is dying out, and the Zulu would not have any say in it. It would be a question of the Government disposing of land in small blocks.

Then that recommended Area No. 1 in Paulpietersburg Division: that is questionable—some of it is good and some of it is very bad as it gets towards the Pongolo. I don't think too much of those areas, Nos. 1 and 2 (Ngotshe and Paulpietersburg Divisions). The Natal portion of No. 3 is good. The pick of land for native settlement lies on the high lands between Ngotshe and Magut. I think to have made a decent settlement of that they should have pretty well put in the whole of the Ngotshe District.

I meant to have drawn your attention to the population of the Northern Districts, none of which have any native locations at all. According to the 1911 Census there were apapparently 96,895 natives in those four districts—practically 97,000 natives. Well, that is a pretty hefty native population. In Utrecht there are 24,000 natives, in Vryheid 35,000, in Paulpietersburg 13,000, and in Ngotshe Division 23,000. I wanted to particularly draw your attention to those figures. Now, most of those are Zulus.

If it is not jumping about too much, I also wanted to draw your attention to the Newcastle, Dundee and Klip River Divisions, where, according to the Census of 1911, we have a native population of 82,311. There were 24,000 in Newcastle, 24,000 in Dundee, and nearly 34,000 in Ladysmith Division. They are three districts without any native locations at all.

Getting back rather to the question of areas, I see in this compendium of correspondence relating to granting to natives in Natal of documentary tribal titles to land that when locations were to be laid down they spoke of 20 to 25 acres per family. The idea was 20 to 25 acres in those days.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think if the individual system had been started in those days, the natives would not have owned much of their land to-day?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That would have had to be guarded against, of course. It would never do to give the native freehold. I would not suggest that now.

There was another point I wanted to remark on: the native population on locations in Natal, according to the Commission's Report, is shown as 265,812, and on the native reserves in Zululand as 214,010, and on mission reserves as 43,109, in all a total of 552,931. I may say that 43,109 on Mission reserves is a Departmental estimate; we were not able to get it from reports. Now the native population on recommended native areas is estimated at 135,920, that is taking it very roughly, but I want to draw your attention to a big discrepancy in the figures as regards Zululand. Now, on those recommended areas in Zululand there are said to be somewhere about 125,760 natives. I am inclined to challenge those figures very seriously. I do not think you have more than about 25,000 on the recommended areas in Zululand—*i.e.*, all those Crown lands in the Pongolo and elsewhere. I called for returns some time ago from Magistrates for Natives on Crown Lands in Zululand, and they came somewhere between 19,000 and 20,000 people. I added 5,000 myself because they were possibly uncertain as to location boundaries in some cases. Taking those figures, you have 378,879 natives in Natal on land other than scheduled and recommended native areas and 19,352 in Zululand. You have got a population of 378,879 to handle in dealing with the recommended native areas for Natal. The position, to my mind, is very serious here. I say you have got that number in front of you in saying what additional land you want.

Mr. Chapman.] The whole thing works down to what proportion of those natives will leave the farms.

Mr. Wheelwright.] It would be very difficult to say. Many of them, rather than leave

the ground, would probably submit to new conditions. It would have to be a fairly stringent condition, I think, that would make the native leave, but if you just look at the three districts I have quoted—Newcastle, Dundee and Klip River—you have 82,000 out of this 378,000, and you have another 86,000 in the four districts of Utrecht, Vryheid, Paulpietersburg and Ngotshe, where you have no native locations at all, and you have in the three districts of Newcastle, Dundee and Klip River a population that has shown a fairly considerable tendency to acquire and buy land. I must say, from one's observations, they are a fairly advanced type of native in those three districts.

Mr. Chapman.] You could not compare, for instance, the natives inhabiting those three districts with the Zulus inhabiting the Northern Districts, from a buying point of view ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, the natives in those three districts of Natal are a big mixture : you have Swazies, Basutos, Zulus and a number of liberated slaves who have grown up with Dutch people, become wealthy and have bought land, and just a casual glance at the map will show the extent to which these people have hitherto purchased land. Now, that type of people, to my mind, is going to be one of your biggest difficulties. You are going to find it much more difficult to cater for that class of person than for the unsophisticated native of Umzimkulu or the Zulu of Vryheid. They are the type of people who have got the taste for land ownership, and to-day many of those men are hiring lands to Europeans for grazing and other purposes.

There is another district I would like to draw your attention to, and that is the Stanger District. I have not any figures with me, but there is a district which is fairly congested with natives outside the actual cane area, and with the development there we found that quite a number of natives have become displaced and applications have had to be met there for settlement as rent-paying tenants on farms to meet the position in its present state of transition.

Mr. Chapman.] They would not go into the location just over the boundary ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That opens up a fairly big question. These locations were laid down and were apportioned to chiefs or tribes. Some locations are occupied entirely by one tribe, others by two or three tribes, but as far as it has been possible to do it lines of demarcation have been kept separate as regards the various tribes in these locations. The tribal system, of course, applies there, and the tribal system is being applied rigidly to natives living outside locations. The tribal entities have grown on those lands outside the locations. The sentiment, tradition, and so on, surrounding tribes has grown, and we find it very difficult to get these people to break away from these tribal associations and to go on to locations where they would have to go under the allegiance of other chiefs, although it is quite possible that some individual may have belonged to that tribe, but, owing to force of circumstances, he has grown up in another tribe to which he has adhered himself ; so it makes this question of removal to locations very difficult.

Mr. Chapman.] It is laid down distinctly under Act 37 of 1891 that consent will not be given to the erection of kraals of less than four huts. Now, has that rule been strictly adhered to, Mr. Wheelwright, more particularly of late years ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No.

Mr. Chapman.] Well, does it not tend to waste a considerable amount of land ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I should not say so. If you take the locations in the Ixopo District, for instance, on the whole they average about $5\frac{1}{2}$ huts per kraal. The total averages that, but you get individual cases of less than 3. For instance, here is a tribe of 101 kraals, comprising 331 huts; that averages out about 3. In the Klip River Location there are 1,501 kraals, representing 4,972 huts ; that averages out at $3\frac{1}{4}$; and throughout the whole of the Umvoti Location the average number of huts works out at $3\frac{1}{6}$. Mission reserves, where the same regulation applies, works out at 2 huts per kraal in Mapumulo, Estcourt works out at 4, Umvoti Mission Reserve works out at 1 and 230.335, Mpofana works out at 4 throughout, the Alexandra work out at $3\frac{3}{4}$—*i.e.*, all the locations there. Then, if you take the Mission reserves there, they work out at $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Mr. Chapman.] That tends to show that on all these Mission Reserves there is a tendency to the single family, but in locations it surely must act detrimentally as far as the amount of land available for occupation is concerned.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Of course, if they were allowed to dot themselves about wherever they liked it would, but no kraal can be put up without the sanction of the chief in charge of the location. Whenever we have opportunities of speaking to and advising them our general advice is that they are to group and congregate as much as possible.

Mr. Chapman.] Then this rule is in abeyance, strictly speaking ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, it is there ; it is not rigidly carried out. We ourselves have recently issued instructions that it is not to be too rigidly carried out for various reasons and objections that have been given. It has been pointed out, and I think quite rightly, that the strict observance of that rule has been the means of keeping certain classes of natives out of those locations. You take a man, for instance, who is a kraal head on a farm. He wants to go into a native location. He has immediately to go and make himself subservient

to a man in the location who probably does not want him a bit: he has to take him into his kraal—a man who is a total stranger to himself—where he will be opposed by the other inmates of the kraal. But the idea on no account is that a man shall be allowed to plant a small kraal just wherever he wishes. He would be directed where to go. In Zululand none of the averages have gone up to 4. Take Eshowe, for instance—they work out at just over 3; in another portion of Eshowe it works out slightly higher, but still under 4. In Nkandhla it is about 3½, in Nqutu about the same, in Ingwavuma just over 3, in Mtunzini 2 and a fraction, in Hlabisa it works out at 3½, Mahlabatini just reached 4, Lower Umfolozi 3, Ndwandwe 3, Ubombo 3, Emtonjaneni 3. I have just taken the total and averaged it, but if you took the individual tribes and took the denominations of the kraals you see in the in the Zwartkop Location 15 kraals of 2 huts, 15 of 3, 114 of 4, 72 of 5, 57 of 6, 35 of 7, 27 of 8, 30 of 9, 28 of 10, 14 of 11, 4 of 12, 3 of 13, and so no. If you took that out right through you would find your average of kraals of less than 4 huts would be a great deal bigger than those with more.

Mr. Marwick.] Would it not be better, for the purpose of working this land, if you could concentrate kraals into bigger units—I mean for the purpose of economising the land?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think the given number is arbitrary. It has not worked out in practice. You can get your aggregation of kraals without necessarily putting the man under the jurisdiction of the kraal head.

Mr. Marwick.] Is it not rather the influence of the chief which keeps these people out of the reserves? Do you disagree with Sir William Beaumont when he says: "The jurisdiction of the chief gives further scope for the exercise of arbitrary authority over those residing within his location; and it is easy to understand how the arbitrary exercise of these powers may and does have the undesirable effect of keeping natives out of the reserves, a matter of the greatest importance"?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I have no doubt that there may be cases where the incumbent of a location, or probable incumbent, would object to the chief, but as a rule the chief wants to get as many people as he can.

Mr. Marwick.] Is it not a fact that the chief's management of these locations is one of the greatest causes of wastefulness at the present moment? I mean, the chief has no idea at all of order or discipline; he just puts a man down where he likes him to be, not where he considers it best in the public interest—he knows nothing about public interest; it is in his own interest principally. Don't you think it is a very undesirable state of affairs for the chief to set aside all this land?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think the better system would be to have a better supervision, as we hope to have. To-day it is only a nominal supervision. Take the Magistrate, for instance—it is a moral impossibility for him to see to the settlement of every kraal, and, on the other hand, the number of Supervisors we have is nothing like sufficient for the work. We hope in time to build up sufficient machinery to be able to control these matters.

Mr. Marwick.] Sir William Beaumont has said the Superintendents of Locations complain that too much authority is left in the hands of the chiefs, and that any interference by them as to the allocation of garden lands or building sites would be resented.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Like any innovation, it might be at first, but it would be lived down. The law would want altering. The Natal Native Code gives the chief an extraordinary amount of power in these locations.

Mr. Marwick.] I understand you to say that this rule was not in abeyance, but it was not being carried out?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Not rigidly.

Mr. Marwick.] Is it not a fact that the Government have declared their intention of repealing it?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No. My instructions at the present time are to issue a circular telling Magistrates not to rigidly enforce the regulations—to meet the applications as they came. The regulations are undergoing revision at the present time.

Mr. Marwick.] I have understood from some Magistrates that they were informed in connection with the revision that this particular section was going to be repealed—that of limiting the kraals.

Mr. Wheelwright.] It is quite possible it might be repealed, but at present it has not been.

Mr. Marwick.] What is the intention of the Government? Do they intend to repeal it?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think so.

Mr. Marwick.] But surely that would be against the spirit of Sir William Beaumont's further advice—"Considering, however, the great importance of this matter, and the great benefits which the natives would derive from the aggregation of garden plots and building sites, it seems imperative that steps would be taken to legislate in this direction"?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I don't think so at all. We will take the case of an advanced native who wants to go into one of these locations.

Mr. Marwick.] Is that not rather the exception than the rule ? Is it not the man who is not advanced who goes to the location ? The other man goes to the Mission reserve.

Mr. Wheelwright.] The mission reserves are not going to hold all these people. There was a time when an exempted native was not allowed to go into a location.

Mr. Marwick.] The first consideration we have before us, as a Committee, is the economy of land, or to consider to what extent land is being wastefully used. Sir William Beaumont is of opinion that the Chiefs tend to wastefulness and that legislation is necessary for the aggregation of garden plots and building sites. Now the only provision as regards building sites the Government have to-day is, I understand, to be repealed.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not hold it is the only one : you can direct the man where he is to build.

Mr. Marwick.] But the chief, the very avenue of wastefulness, is the man who directs him. He has no idea of order and won't enforce it ; he resents the interference of the man who would order things better, that is the Superintendent of Locations.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I claim to-day that the supervision of these locations is not what it should be. We hope it will be better, but we never will get satisfaction in these locations until you get better supervision. We are tending now to individualize the occupation of these locations, not to perpetualize the communal system.

Mr. Marwick.] But, surely, if you individualize people who are not fit for individualism —people who are a communal people now and who must be 100 years from individualism— you are going to continue the process of waste in the allotment of land ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am not suggesting that the thing is going to come at a fell swoop, but the tendency is rather to individualize than to make these fellows collective.

Mr. Marwick.] But do you see no benefit in applying this rule for the four huts ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, not to heathens.

Mr. Marwick.] But your opinion must surely be against the opinions of your own supervisors who have to deal first hand with this side of the work ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am not aware of anything to the contrary.

Mr. Marwick.] I think that both Mr. Stuart and Mr. Fitzgerald have indicated that the enforcement of this in regard to natives living under tribal conditions is the very acme of what they consider ought to be done.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Take those men who have paid the tax for four huts for years and years past to conform to this rule, yet probably only occupying one or two huts. Their huts have been built absolutely within the one fence to make it a strictly four-hut kraal. The thing is evaded in many ways.

Mr. Marwick.] But surely that is no reason why the Government should cancel it altogether. Would it not be better to enforce it, *i.e.*, require a man to attach himself to another man who would receive him so as to conform to this principle of aggregating kraal sites and therefore economising land ? The man who has two empty huts is just as bad an offender as the man who has two full huts, because he wastes space.

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I do not agree there is no reason at all why the man's kraal should not be grouped. I am quite satisfied from the evidence I have had that many people are kept out of these places because they have to go under the control of a kraal-head who is in one of these locations to-day.

Mr. Warwick.] Is not that rather a good thing ? You take the ordinary vagabond who comes from nowhere—is it not rather a good thing that he should attach himself to a well-established kraal-head ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not necessarily think he is a vagabond. He may be a very decent native.

Mr. Marwick.] But ordinarily the man who moves about a lot is much better if he is under supervision. I am familiar with the time when this was introduced in 1896, and I think you will find that the resolutions of the Farmers' Conferences point out the undesirability of natives living in single huts from the point of view of the facility for theft and that sort of thing.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I have just gone through our removals for stock thefts in the Colony and I find that the proportion is about 8 to 1 of farm natives moved for stock thefts as against location thieves.

Mr. Marwick.] As a rule, I think it is the farmer or stock-owner who calls for the exercise of this rule. If one native stole from another, ordinarily the native would go on living there ; his removal would not be sought.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Far from it. Natives are right on it at once. We have had them apply for them to be removed for stealing chickens and mealies and so on.

Mr. Marwick.] What grounds would you have for repealing this legislation in contradistinction to the grounds which Sir William Beaumont asserts for the need for it ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Sir William Beaumont does not touch upon any specified number of huts to constitute a kraal. His idea is to have a concentration of building sites and a concentration of arable lands.

Mr. Marwick.] Surely that is legislation in that direction, although he is evidently unaware of these rules ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It is arbitrary to tell any man that he must have less than four huts.

Mr. Marwick.] But surely a little arbitrariness is good for the man who needs control ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It rests with the chief to say where they shall build and, as it is shown by this report, that regulation is no sort of regulation at all. We get location supervisors into the country as quickly as the Government will give them to us, and they are gradually settling down to their work, and to a very great extent we hope to replace the chief by the location supervisor.

Mr. Marwick.] Supposing you cancel that and, in spite of the supervisor's advice, a man puts his kraal up wherever he chooses or puts it up in a way which does not tend to the aggregation of kraal sites—how are you going to prevent him ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] You would move him.

Mr. Marwick.] This surely is an advance on anything you have hitherto said. You may say here that a native shall not live in a kraal of less than four huts and surely that is a good provision ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I hold—and I think rightly, too—that that is preventing the proper occupation of these locations ; that these locations are not carrying the population they should do. I am with you as long as you have got the chief. You cannot wipe him out in a day : it is going to take a considerable length of time.

Mr. Chapman.] Can you give us any information with regard to Nagana in Zululand ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Unfortunately, I cannot produce statistics ; they would be very difficult to get. It is only of more recent times that we have been able to get blood slides from every beast that dies in the country ; at one time we were not able to get them. On the subject of tsetse fly, up to 1896 or 1897 I knew the fly belts fairly intimately. They were fairly well defined. You could outspan, for instance, on the open flats and probably half a mile beyond you would get into the fly belt. Rinderpest came in 1897 and cleared off some game almost entirely, such as buffalo, koodoo, inyala and bushbuck. The fly, as far as one could make out, disappeared from the country. I remember in 1897 or 1898 going down with Verney, the Vet., to the junction of the Umfolozi Rivers looking for fly. We took our horses down with us and a number of dogs, and we took them there with impunity. That was after rinderpest. To-day you dare not take your horse down to that area. Not only has the tsetse fly returned to that area but it has invaded the country right away to the Mahlabatini Magistracy. It has crept up the White Umfolozi as far as Eqwatsha. The Bhekamuzi Valley has been infected by it for a considerable distance. Then that area between Hlabisa and Somkele has become worse than ever it was. I remember when you could take horses and oxen there with a fair degree of impunity. The fly has spread in the direction of the Mkuzi and the Sekane and towards the Makowe Hills very considerably. In these times when there is a fight for land I am perfectly convinced that you cannot keep game of that kind.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is no question about the fly following the game. You have one of the finest scientists in General Bruce. He was got out specially by the Zululand Government when they were a Crown Colony to investigate the tsetse fly at the Ubombo, and he was able to convey the disease to domestic animals by artificial means from many wild animals found in the fly belts.

Mr. Chapman.] Then you are opposed to the theory advanced by a good many people that the fly is not necessarily the only means of spreading the disease ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I know of no other. Before the days of science you had transport riders and hunters who never attributed it to anything else. You have scientists who have been able to convey that disease through the agency of the fly but through nothing else.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think if the game was restricted and driven back to the old reserves which were originally looked upon as game reserves that the fly would disappear from the other parts ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am certain it would. You have an instance at the Ubombo : during the last 18 months or so, from where the game has been driven off, we hardly get any Nagana slides. Prior to that we were getting dozens a week. The cattle were being decimated right up to the Magistracy.

In my opinion, the Hluhluwe Game Reserve is a danger to the surrounding native locations and a danger to white settlement. It is proposed, I believe, to extend white settlement up along that Hluhluwe ground. Those fellows who first take up that land will have a tremendous battle against tsetse fly.

Mr. Chapman.] Then you recommend the abolition of that Hluhluwe Reserve ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Certainly. And in laying out farms in the Ntambanana, those fellows are going to catch it. The tsetse fly was nothing like so bad south of the Umfolozi River when I was stationed there in 1893 or 1894 as it has been during the last few years. Some time back the tsetse fly invaded the Umfolozi District to localities which had never been

affected in the past. The farmers were allowed to shoot the game off, and the fly disappeared.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think indiscriminate shooting has tended to spread the game, and thus the fly ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I don't think so. I think it is the natural increase of the game which is causing it to spread. The Magistrate at Ubombo told me that he reckoned there were over 10,000 wildebeeste on the Makatini Flats, and he is an observant man who has been there a long time. I was there in January, and I don't think I am exaggerating when I say I saw about 2,000 in a very limited area. The number of calves I saw probably ran into six or seven hundred, which would have quite made up for the number of wildebeeste killed.

In parts of the country where tsetse fly has never existed by all means preserve game, but I think it is a very dangerous experiment to preserve game in districts where tsetse fly exists. There is not only the danger of the domestic animal, but there is the question of those people coming back from Central Africa. I believe scientists say the fly we have got, and which is causing nagana, is *Glossina pallidines*. but they cannot assure us that that fly is incapable of causing sleeping sickness.

I have protested against the extending of these shooting areas into native locations. They (the Provincial Administration) have conceded a point to us, but they can stop it at any moment. The natives in locations can kill all this outlawed game except in the open season, when they are not allowed to do so in the shooting areas. Where these shooting areas entrench on to Crown Lands the native is nót allowed to shoot during the open season, but he can do so during the closed season. That is done to protect the men who take out a licence. I hold there should be no interference at all in the protection of dangerous game.

Regarding neutral areas, it is an extremely difficult question to answer. Those districts that I have quoted, of Newcastle, Dundee, Klip River, Utrecht, Vryheid, Paulpietersburg and Ngotshe Divisions—it would be impossible to bring the Act into operation there at the present moment ; it would mean the movement of so many people. If not the movement of so many people, it would affect so many people. I should say those districts would be tremendously affected by the Act coming into operation at once.

The Chairman.] Do you think that they ought to be a neutral area ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Those districts certainly would have to be given some consideration and longer time in falling into line with whatever Act is decided on, than those districts more sparsely occupied by natives and where they have grounds to go to.

Mr. Marwick.] Do you consider there are any areas to which by reason of existing conditions of occupation by natives as well as non-natives it is not practicable to apply at present or for some years to come, prohibitive measures affecting the purchase, hire or other acquisition of land ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Well, I hold that those seven there would fall under that category. I take them as outstanding cases.

Mr. Marwick.] But, surely, in Ngotshe District there is no occupation by natives as well as non-natives ? It is practically unoccupied by non-natives.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I take it it means, as far as I understand it, that the idea of a neutral area is not what Sir William Beaumont suggested as a permanent one, but a temporary measure. Those seven districts I have mentioned are the worst.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think the conditions apply more with regard to this clause down in Alexandra County, where you have a very mixed population, rather than the districts you mention ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I take it the object of that is to relieve the position that would be suddenly brought about by the enforcement of this particular Act and that, therefore, certain neutral areas should be declared during which time these people would convert themselves into their proper native area or non-native area, as the case may be, and that it would not mean an immediate upheaval of a large number of people.

March 13th, 1918.

Mr. Wheelwright.] It is an almost impossible question, I think—to state what would be considered adequate to meet the needs and requirements of natives, as judged by the present number in actual and beneficial occupation—for me to answer without very specific information, for instance, as to the number of those natives who are likely to be displaced. We have 379,000 on other than native areas in Natal. If one knew what proportion of those people would be likely to seek places in the present locations, then one might possibly say how much additional land might, if necessary, be requried. It would be a simple matter if one could say how many of those people were going to be turned off. I am not prepared to make any suggestion as to what the proportion would be.

Mr. Marwick.] Do not the terms of reference rather tend to show that we have got to

exclude from our calculations any but those in actual and beneficial occupation now and their increase ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] In that case, for the sake of enlightenment, what would I understand the additional native areas to be for—to meet what particular type of people ?

Mr. Marwick.] I have always understood they have been set apart to satisfy the desire of the native to buy land, as a sort of *quid pro quo* for his deprivation of the right to buy land generally.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Then in that case I take it you want me to consider the actual existing native locations with their population to-day, separate and apart from those living outside those areas ?

Mr. Marwick.] I think that is what we are directly to consider here ; that however much we might wish to consider possible displacements of people, it does not come within our terms of reference really.

Mr. Wheelwright.] The question directed at me is taking for granted that certain 522,931 natives are on some 6,272,289 acres in Natal and Zululand on definite native locations.

Mr. Marwick.] Yes, do you consider it sufficient ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do if I am perfectly clear on that point that you are asking me to say whether the present native locations of Natal and Zululand are sufficient to meet the present requirements of the natives living there and their increase for a period of 10 years, I should say distinctly there is sufficient land for them and their increase for a period of 10 years. If that was the end of the question I would not leave the answer at that without qualifying it by saying that my opinion and reading the intention of these instructions to you and the intention of the Act is that the idea of additional native areas is to provide for those people who have lost or will lose the right under the Act of free purchase of land throughout the whole Colony and will be confined to specified allotments to be demarcated by the Commission appointed under the Act of 1913, if such is the case, then I say the locations as they stand to-day will not meet that case.

Mr. Chapman.] You would not be prepared to give us an idea of what additional acreage is needed ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I would not be prepared to give it in figures. I should say that as regards those districts of the late Transvaal in northern Natal, generally speaking the recommendation of the Commission seems to me very fair, but I would like to have seen it slightly more liberal, as I suggested, in the Ngotshe Division on account of the nature of the ground forming one of the areas, that is, the one between the Pongolo and Mkuzi, but as regards the three districts of Natal proper, the Newcastle, Dundee and Ladysmith, and I believe the District of Stanger, I do not think the provision that is suggested, perhaps in quantity (I would even doubt that), but in quality would not meet what I take to be the object of the Act. I am sorry I have not got figures of the quantity of native-owned land in Natal that falls outside the recommended areas. If that were to be taken away from the present owners and they were told to replace that land or they could replace it in the recommended native areas, I should think it would be extremely difficult for those people to find land of that nature. In addition to those people you have got this large number of people who are being told that on one side of the line you shall not buy, but you may on the other. It is not a question of men owning 5 or 10 acres, but to deal with men who aspire to owning farms of from 25 to 1,000 acres.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think it would be a very gradual process ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, there is not the slightest doubt it is bound to be a slow process, but that won't get over the necessity of having a sufficiency both for blacks and whites who may be dispossessed.

Mr. Chapman.] Suppose, for example, we take Area 17 : there are a good number of farms owned there by Europeans and natives, and in Harding there is a considerable number of native-owned farms—would it not be possible that by a gradual process of what one might call evolution that the natives would move out of 17 block into the Harding area without materially inconveniencing anyone in any way ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, if the whole of that block from 17 to the end of the Colony were to be declared a native area—perhaps you might want more—such a process might be feasible, but I doubt very much whether it would meet your position as regards the northern people. There is all the sentiment and association with country that those people have grown up in and they would naturally ask to have ground in their own neighbourhood.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think there would be an insurmountable objection to natives going from Natal to Zululand. Sentiment goes a tremendous way. I think that Southern Natal proposition is more than feasible because the place is practically largely owned by natives. If you take Area No. 15 downwards the whole of it is largely in the hands of natives to-day.

Mr. Chapman.] That area includes a very considerable number of half-castes ; how would you treat those ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] There are a fair number. Of course, under the Act they are non-natives. It is a very difficult position.

The part that is giving me a good deal of apprehension is this part from Weenen up to Colenso. You have a tremendous body of natives there living on farms. This gradual invasion by natives is being a slow but a very sure process. It will be very difficult for the owners of those farms near Colenso and Weenen to come along, say, in 20 years time and suddenly want to displace thousands of tenants. It will pay them to retain them as tenants.

The Chairman.] Supposing that land there in the South of Natal was declared a native area, what is to become of the whites ? They would want farms somewhere ; where would they get them without emigrating to another country ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is a very difficult question to answer, but what was in one's own mind differs from the Act a good deal. I see an advantage in the territorial separation of lands. I have always seen it and I need not go into reasons which prompt one, but I never at any time said, nor have I advised, nor would I advise that you should place any embargo on the lands of whites that may fall into a native area. I would place this embargo, that a native might be permitted to buy land in a native area, but that—once having bought it—he should not be allowed to traffic that land with any but a native. The process of the natives buying this land in my mind might take 100 or 150 or more years before there would be any attempt to displace a large number of whites. I doubt very much whether every farm in a native area would be claimed within the next 50 or 100 years. Still bearing in mind that the native purchase of land would be restricted to those areas, you could get no more of this invasion that has occurred in Natal. You have to go back to the early occupation of this country, when the whole place was denuded of natives, and yet these people came in and invaded it in the shape of refugees. Where you see these great blocks of green marked on the map I fear that those invasions will become permanent, on the land that is supposed to be beneficially occupied by the white section, if the position is allowed to cement itself and to go on continuing.

Mr. Marwick.] Is that not due to the want of regulation in the existing native areas they have got ? Our observation of them is that there is plenty of room, and that there should be no encouragement in the way of areas if the land were used economically.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I would have a very ready answer to that, Mr. Marwick, if at no time the native had been permitted to be a purchaser or potential purchaser of land.

Mr. Marwick.] But his purchases must surely have been infinitesimal compared with the actual occupation of land by natives—he has occupied a great deal, but purchased very little ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] But that does not get over the native objection, which is one of the main planks in their platform, that they are being deprived of an inherent right.

Mr. Marwick.] We were discussing for the moment the question as to what would happen to the white man. Then I understood you to say there was an invasion of European lands—whether he liked it or not, they had come on from the earliest occupation of this country and they were overflowing into European areas. My observation was that it was due to the fact that they were not sufficiently regulated in their own areas.

Mr. Wheelwright.] You go over those farms I have indicated round Weenen, and this ground towards Greytown. If you compare that ground with the land in the native location you find it is not anything like the other at all : one is excellent ground that will grow any kind of crop, and that is what attracts the native to that part.

Mr. Marwick.] But surely there is excellent ground in the locations, too ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Not there ; there you have some of the worst land in Natal.

Mr. Marwick.] That may be true, but, taken as a general proposition, it is surely correct to say there is excellent land in the locations—land quite as good as on the farms ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] In parts, yes, but this question of having half the population on ground outside the locations is not a matter of to-day ; that has been going on for the last 50 or more years.

Mr. Marwick.] Yes, exactly, and it will go on as long as the locations are not regulated. Now to come to the question of the regulation of locations, have you got any concrete proposition for the better use of the land, in other words the closer settlement of the natives in existing locations ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, the same principle that we apply to the mission reserves, in my mind, is the solution.

Mr. Marwick.] Could you tell us briefly what you propose to do ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] All this is simply in the air. It is in no concrete form yet ; it is merely an idea which is carrying out the ideas of those who started the proposition in the 50's and it is the experience of the Cape Colony, and in other places that you can more beneficially occupy these locations by introducing a form of security of tenure to the individual by laying out holdings—arable holdings, building holdings, and for grazing—and generally to conserve the place as much as possible. That is a thing which I claim or hold should have been attempted 60 or 70 years ago, and we should be in the same position to-day as the Cape.

It is going to be very difficult for us to introduce it at one fell swoop ; it will have to be modified and fitted in with existing regulations. That, roughly, is the idea. It will mean a considerable displacement of natives from their present occupation, in the same way as at the Ifafa, where we are now laying down a village into which a number of people have agreed to go and to which we hope to be able to transfer their residence with a view to conserving the land for arable purposes.

Mr. Marwick.] Now, if you were asked to state in a few words what your next step is in connection with the closer settlement of natives on existing locations, what would you say ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should say go to the places which suggest themselves as the most likely places. You might take a place like the Italaneni Mission Reserve, where the people are considerably advanced, and where I am perfectly certain they would be prepared to accept a form of individual tenure.

Mr. Warwick.] Is that not more corresponding to the conditions of mission reserves ? It is quite unsual and not at all general. I am speaking now generally of the need there is for improvement and some immediate improvement in regard to the occupation of existing native locations. The Italaneni is a Mission Station and surrounded by a missionary population very largely who have lost ties with their chiefs.

Mr. Wheelwright.] We are naturally going to seize on the places which suggest themselves as most suitable and feasible, in the same way as we are seizing on the mission reserves of Natal. In the District of Nqutu I am perfectly satisfied we could bring about a great deal of individual settlement, and there are other places which would suggest themselves.

Mr. Marwick.] What we are occupied with is to consider the closer settlement of natives on existing native locations, *i.e.*, as the natives are to-day—heathens, Christians and anything else ; good, bad and indifferent. If you can put forward some concrete proposition which would convince, or fail to convince, us that there is going to be a closer settlement of existing native locations we should be advanced further.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Well, I cannot do more than tell you that the trend of my discussions with the Administration on the subject is to introduce as rapidly as we possibly can, consistent with the conditions of the country, a system somewhat similar to that followed in the neighbouring Colony, the Cape.

Mr. Marwick.] I understood you to say if we had followed that 70 years ago we would have been in a much more favourable position to-day, but what exactly would you follow ? You say generally you would follow the system of the Cape, but let us hear in so many words what is the system you would adopt. What would be the immediate effect and how would you effect an immediate improvement in regard to the closer settlement of natives on existing native locations ? What is done at the Cape ? The Glen Grey system is utterly inapplicable here.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Why ?

Mr. Marwick.] It connotes the idea of individual tenure immediately. These natives here are as much suited for individual tenure as they are for top hats.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Why ? I think that is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you tell us exactly, please, are you in favour of individual tenure ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am endeavouring to tell you that I am in favour of individual tenure, and that is the line I am discussing with my Administration. I am trying to point out that it is a process which has got to take a certain amount of time. I would not suggest individual tenure straight away. I should do it by a gradual process. We have taken the Mission Reserves in Natal and operated on them. If the Administration of this country funked the thing for 70 years, I do not see how any Administration is suddenly going to revolutionise the position by a stroke of the pen. We have seized upon those portions of the land where the law authorises a form of tenure other than communal tenure in the native locations. Well, we have made an actual start, and I hope we will be able to continue at a very fair pace in getting on with the Mission Reserves. I do not mean because we are doing that that we are going to leave the native locations at all. Some system, I take it, can be applied to the native locations, but we will have to go at that very gradually until the people are accustomed to the thing, and then I am perfectly certain the others will fall into line.

Mr. Marwick.] How long would you consider it will take for natives in locations to adopt themselves to the system of individual tenure ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should say, if the process is begun at an early date, in from 10 to 15 years you should have the whole of your locations, such as are capable, under tenure.

By Mr. Chapman.] You would have to make it optional for a time. The Glen Grey system in the Transkei was not introduced throughout the whole territory at once.

Mr. Chapman.] Do you think these people will agree voluntarily to come under this ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not think if it were offered to the people as a whole that they would accept the position, but I am perfectly certain that if and when the law is altered to permit of a move of this kind, and where you once give a certain number of people in

these locations, starting in suitable places, a holding of some kind over which they control themselves, that the rest of these locations will be caught by this bait.

Mr. Chapman.] That will be a very slow process.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think—I may be entirely wrong—it could be brought about in from 10 to 20 years. It was distinctly the intention that the system should have been introduced when these locations were first laid down.

Mr. Marwick.] What tenure would you give the natives similar to the Glen Grey Act ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think an occupation certificate, which is next door to a perpetual lease.

Mr. Marwick.] On what conditions would he hold the land—would it be granted to him, or would he buy it ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is a matter, I think, we would have to go into. In the Transkei I believe they pay quit rent to the Government and a local rate to the Native Council. All their requirements come out of the local rates.

Mr. Marwick.] So it would practically mean that, subject to good behaviour and paying his rent, he would get freehold ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Practically. It would be a perpetual lease. He would not be removed except for rebellion or failure to pay the dues. He could only be removed for some very sound reason.

Mr. Marwick.] Exactly ; he practically would be a free agent there. Now, is it not a fact that the issue of individual tenure in Natal was specially suspended on the advice of the missionaries, who were concerned with the development of those areas ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I could not tell you. It certainly is not their opinion now. .

Mr. Marwick.] There were several Mission Reserves on which the extension of the principle adopted at Groutville and Charlottedale was contemplated, but at the instance of the missionaries no further titles were issued.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I could not tell you why it was stopped, but I can say that I have been urged by certain of these missionaries to bring about individual tenure as quickly as possible, and by the natives themselves.

Mr. Chapman.] Would you advocate in these areas any system of local self-government ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I would.

Mr. Chapman.] Even in locations ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] In considering the amendment of these rules and regulations affecting locations, in what direction would they be amended so as to accomplish the idea of closer settlement ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] So far all that has been done with these rules is that they have been sent to Magistrates to criticise and to give us opinions, and to Supervisors. I have not gone into the draft rules, but one outstanding rule is the control of where these land and habitations shall occur.

Mr. Marwick.] Could we have a copy of the Circular that was issued in regard to the amendment of these rules.? It might help us to see what the tendency of the amendments was ; I mean what amendments were indicated as desirable and what suggestions were being called for.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, I have no doubt you can have it. The whole thing is in the melting pot. I am not at all satisfied with the working rules. It was suggested that Supervisors gave certain information about the occupation of certain kraals, and so on. That is the very point I am endeavouring to bring about—the supervision of locations by Supervisors. The Supervisors up to the present have not supervised them. No Location Supervisor has said where a kraal shall be built, or how it shall be built. I want to turn these men into live officers, if possible.

Mr. Marwick.] If he ventured to allocate any land without the chief having allocated it his position could be challenged by law, I take it ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] We have got to see what regulations we can change which would not come in conflict with the Code of Native Law. That, in my opinion, wants very considerable amendment. I think it is antiquated in many respects.

Mr. Marwick.] I would be more satisfied if I could know definitely what probable steps are going to be taken within a measurable time in regard to closer settlement on locations ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not know that I can make it any clearer. I have discussed it with my Administration. They are not in a position to-day to say "Yes" or "No" to any proposition I put up because the law would not permit of any step being taken. The law would have to be altered. It will mean a certain amount of legislation. I have been told that if this Natives' Land Act goes through there is provision there by which Government shall legislate by proclamation. Then whatever required to be legalized in the way of regulations that may be in conflict with law could be altered at fairly short notice by the issue of a proclamation. To-day it is extremely difficult to get native legislation through.

Mr. Marwick.] In regard to neutral areas, in view of the hostility to the restriction

upon the purchase of land, don't you think the demarcation of a neutral area within which no prohibitive measures affecting the purchase of land should be enforced would be an advantage, as a temporary mitigation of this drastic rule ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Pending their removal ultimately, or their restriction ultimately to certain fixed areas ?

Mr. Marwick.] Yes, certain neutral areas should be indicated in which there should be no prohibition as regards the purchase of land.

Mr. Wheelwright.] The same difficulty arises in my mind there that does in the mind of the native in being asked the same question, though if we knew what the native areas were it would be a much easier question to answer. If I understand that definite areas are to be granted as native areas and I am then asked to say whether neutral areas are necessary or not, I would unhesitatingly say that neutral areas are necessary as a relief measure. In that case I would be inclined to stick to the areas that were recommended by Sir William Beaumont in Natal.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you recommend those neutral areas assuming that the scheduled native areas would not be disturbed ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, reserving the difficulty I pointed out, that I think the native area in the neighbourhood between Tugela and the Mpofana does not meet the requirements of that locality. I cannot get away from the anxiety one has in that part ; there are an enormous number of natives there.

Mr. Marwick.] Speaking broadly, are you in favour of neutral areas or not ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Purely as a relief. I am not at all in favour of the purchase by natives in these neutral areas, because that is going to further complicate the position. I am in favour of, say, hiring or being allowed to live there.

Mr. Marwick.] Why are you not in favour of their being allowed to purchase ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Because I feel that we do not know when this will finally be declared a European area.

Mr. Marwick.] But would that not fail to give them the relief about which they make most noise—that of their deprivation of their right to buy ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I fear it would neutralize the object of the Act—of territorial separation. We have no guarantee as to how long these neutral areas would last. Say the State came along fifty years hence and declared European some of these areas which are to-day made neutral with the intention of giving relief pending transfer to their own areas. If these people are allowed to buy, they are going to accentuate the difficulty by at a later period having to give up lands they have bought and probably cheated themselves into thinking it is a way out of the difficulty.

Mr. Chapman.] Then you would recommend them being allowed to buy in the recommended areas and to lease in the neutral areas ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, if assured of the areas being sufficient and suitable.

Mr. Marwick.] Could not the difficulty be got over if the purchase in neutral areas were made conditional upon the approval of the South African Native Affairs Commission, and that they agreed to assist natives in regard to the holding of title and obviating many irregularities which have occurred through natives mortgaging their land ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That would be a safeguard, but I do not quite see how we are going to get over these people accumulating land in these neutral areas, and that would be a greater difficulty at a later period and more disappointing than asking people to give up land which they had been buying during these years ?

Mr. Marwick.] That could be proclaimed as being the understanding : that they bought there more or less on probation and that it would depend upon their proximity to existing native-owned farms whether they became a native area or not. I think those conditions would certainly tend to consolidate the present purchase into one block and tend to draw them away from European purchasers.

I think all native purchases whatsoever ought to be made a matter for the direction, assistance and guidance of the South African Native Affairs Commission, to avoid the tremendous irregularity which has gone on, and they should get no assistance unless they were acting in accordance with the advice of that Commission. That would also tend to consolidate the purchases in one block. It would expedite and facilitate the idea of making it a matter of ease to separate one area from the other.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Then the intention would be not to define these native areas until some future date ?

Mr. Marwick.] I think the idea would be to declare certain areas as neutral but to regulate the buying in those areas with a view to the native purchasers being consolidated. The object would be to encourage them to buy near rather than apart.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am afraid I cannot see the way out, Mr. Marwick. I think it is only putting off the evil day. I agree with the temporary relief up to the extent of the hiring of land. I am excluding from the relief the purchase of land. I agree with it right up to the point where it includes the purchase of land. I would like them to live on land as rent-

paying tenants and lease land, but not to buy land. I am looking at it generally in the natives' own interests. Certain areas may be defined to-day as neutral areas, but nobody knows what will become of them. He knows where he is if he gets suitable areas defined for him at the present moment, but does not know what is going to happen 40, 50 or more years hence. His position is going to become far more difficult later on. If there was an influx of Europeans in the country, I am certain the position would be accentuated in years to come; it is difficult enough now.

I certainly gathered from all I have spoken to on the subject, and from the Commission sitting in the Transvaal, that this relief that is suggested at the present time is purely one of a temporary nature to enable these people to make suitable arrangements for transfer during a period to be fixed by the State.

Mr. Marwick.] In giving these people individual tenure you would follow the lines that you have touched on as prevailing in the Cape, in giving them, say, 9 acres of land?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should be inclined to use that as a basis, but I would not close one's eyes to the conditions of any particular place you might be working on. If you found a small location that would not permit of 9 acres per head it would be necessary then, in a case of that kind, to simply make the thing eke out as far as it would go. You might be compelled to recommend smaller holdings, but I think, taking the land, good and bad, we would probably find that that would be the basis on which to work—somewhere about that acreage.

Mr. Marwick.] As regards the increase in the native population, can you say what was the increase in the native population of Natal between the one Census and the other?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Our departmental figures show an increase of 170,900.

The Census totals for 1904 and 1911 are 904,041 and 953,398, respectively, *i.e.* an increase of 49,357 during the seven years.

Mr. Marwick.] How can you account for the vast difference?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Looking into the Census figures, there are shown 49,062 females and only 295 males as the increase in seven years. That discrepancy to my mind would show the absolute unreliability of the Census figures.

Mr. Marwick.] With regard to the area at the present time under cultivation by natives, I think you said three acres per family. Would you consider those three acres were well cultivated?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should say they were cultivated just on the ordinary native method of cultivation I have described.

Mr. Warwick.] Would you call it good or bad?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Viewed from the European point of view I should say it was very bad. Viewed from the native point of view I should say it is what they have been doing ever since I have known them.

By Mr. Chapman.] I mean by three acres the actual amount under cultivation, not including the land lying fallow. Actually they might be handling more than 6 acres. If you go to any of these farms occupied by natives you find land that has been lying untouched and idle for years.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you agree with that estimate of the Chairman of 10 acres being the amount of land a native would have the right to cultivate, that is prospective right—keeping other people off it.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, I should think so.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you think if these natives are indifferently cultivating three acres it would be a mistake to give each family 9 acres?

Mr. Wheelwright.] If he is to be an agriculturalist pure and simple I think he would probably do with less, but if he is to be allowed to have a certain amount of stock that would have to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Marwick.] I am speaking for the moment of the amount of cultivable land, and I understand you to say that 9 acres should be set apart?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] Don't you think that excessive in view of the fact that the native very indifferently cultivates his three acres to-day?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I take it you are providing for a family there. I should say that if you are providing for a family 9 acres would not be excessive, more especially if any system is to be brought about by which that individual is to be confined to his specific lot of 9 acres.

Mr. Marwick.] Does that not bring us back to the point that to-day a native has wastefully got possession of 10 acres and we think there is room for improvement?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, I admit thoroughly that there is room for improvement, but the suggested improvement is that this individual instead of being allowed to go to-day to one bit of ground and to-morrow to another, will have marked off for him a specific bit of ground to look to for all time to supply the wants of his family.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think if the individual is confined to a certain bit of ground and

he knows that he cannot go outside that piece of ground, that he will have to make the best use he can of it.

Mr. Chapman.] But if he has 9 acres per hut he can afford to let half lie fallow each year.

Mr. Wheelwright.] You are dealing with the ignorant class of people. I have no doubt in time to come, given time and instruction, these people will be able to make better use of the ground than they are able to do under their ignorant ways to-day.

Mr. Marwick.] If you set apart for him 9 acres without regard to his making beneficial use of that amount, are you not going to lay up trouble for yourself in future when you have to adjust that and bring him back to his actual capacity for using it ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should think an advanced native, given a plough and oxen, and he manured his ground and looked after it, in time to come I should hope that this man ought to be able to use 8 or 9 acres.

Mr. Marwick.] I am speaking, of course, for the moment of the ordinary native in the location. Would not 9 acres be too extravagant and lead to dissatisfaction later on, in view of the present use they make of the land ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] We all hope that the native is going to advance and that where he is to-day using land in an ignorant way, he will in time to come know the value of the land and use it properly.

Mr. Marwick.] Could you give us an estimate of the amount of land that you consider necessary as native area for the present population of Natal and the estimated increase for ten years ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think I answered that before. I think that the ground in possession of natives to-day in native locations is sufficient for the population of to-day and that of the next ten years. I am not touching recommended areas ; I am speaking merely of the scheduled areas.

Mr. Marwick.] Now, in regard to the increase, what figure would you adhere to as to the correct figure for us to take as the increase in the population ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] The one I have compiled for you—170,900.

Mr. Marwick.] But how would you explain the discrepancy between the actual enumeration and the estimated figure which you have put forward ? I only ask this question in order that we many be assisted in coming to a conclusion ; where there is such a wide difference we must give some sound reason.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am sorry that there should be a discrepancy, but you understand how the two sets of figures have been produced. I can only hold that the census figures are not correct, as has been reflected in comparing them with the increase of the Cape and Transvaal population, and borne out by calculations which we have made by actual figures as far as Natal is concerned, and the same proportion applied to Zululand, where the births and deaths are not registered.

Mr. Marwick.] In computing the difference between the birth rate and the death rate, do you take any regard of emigration and immigration ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I have no reason to suppose that one was not balanced by the other, judging from the applications we have received. For this particular purpose no regard was paid to actual figures except that one does periodically look into records of people leaving and entering the country.

Mr. Marwick.] In regard to the census, what do you suggest was at fault with it, assuming it was in the hands of good organizers ?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I was not here when the census was taken. I was satisfied with the method by which it was taken in the Transvaal. It was all under the same central control, but in any case—taking the 1904 Census to be correct and taking the 1911 Census to be correct —then I challenge the proportional rate of increase. It does not seem to me to compare with what is shown in the Cape Colony and the Transvaal if applied to the Natal figures. In the absence of any epidemic I cannot see that there should be such a difference, as I look upon Natal as an extremely healthy Province, and the greater part of Zululand is very healthy.

Mr. Marwick.] I think the report of the Lands Commission shows a big disparity in the healthiness of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal. In the former there is no malarial at all.

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, compared with the Transvaal the malarial there, to my mind, covers a greater area than it does in Zululand. Take a district like the Zoutpansberg, where in one Magisterial district the native population is half that of the whole of Natal—a very large proportion of those people are living in what is known as the malarial belt. Also in Barberton and Lydenburg, the main native population is found in the malarial belt. I would expect a greater death rate amongst natives leaving Tongaland and working at Hlobane or on the high veld than amongst families who were resident in the malarial area and did not leave it.

By Mr. Chapman.] In dealing with the part of the Transvaal I was in we did not trouble about the tribal system at all outside native locations. If a man was thrown off a farm

he would go to another instead of going to a location, where he could choose his grazing, and so on, but when he could not, after the Squatters Act and Land Act were passed, we had the same difficulty that I have had suggested to me in Natal. A rivalry has arisen in Natal through the tribal system between these various tribes, and the man for sentiment and other reasons would hang on at all costs to this entity which has grown up and become a tribe, although he knows he is on farms and farms from which he is liable to be evicted, rather than surrender that tribal sentiment and come into a location where he would fall under the allegiance of another chief. That feature has stood out: that if these people had been unattached agents in the way of a tribe they would have been more likely to go, after being ejected from a farm, into an adjoining location than they are now when they have a tribal entity of their own.

Mr. Marwick.] If the Act is not modified from its present form to any material extent, will it occasion the removal of natives from private lands?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think so.

Mr. Marwick.] Are you able to give us an estimate as to the probable number of natives who would be removed?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Well, I give it with every reservation. I should say probably at least one-third of the population that is outside locations at the present time.

Mr. Marwick.] How do you regard the present provisions of the Act applying to natives in non-native areas. Do you regard them as causing any injustice in this Province or would they operate without injustice.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Of course, at the present moment there are no areas defined into which these people can as a right claim to go, but certain recommended areas have been looked upon as areas into which these applicants have been allowed to transact various transactions when they have made application. I pointed out certain districts of Natal where I think that immediate application of the law would work hardly on the people, and I pointed out instances where I thought greater provision should be made for native areas.

Mr. Marwick.] Speaking generally, how would you regard the provisions of the Act? Are they going to cause injustice or not?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not know whether I should use the word "injustice," but they certainly would cause what the native would look upon as a hardship. He probably would be required to leave ground that was suitable to him in every way. On the other hand, I am not prepared to say, even if the law was prosecuted with all its rigour, whether some of these natives would not be prepared to stay on and tender £3, which is the maximum. I still believe that if they had to pay £3 they would be getting the value of that £3, and that possibly those men would not go.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am inclined to think the proportion would probably be one-third, because with the innumerable small tribes holding sway over the people on the farms you would get a proportion of chiefs, headmen and others who have never worked and who would resent having to take up any sort of labour. Those people, I feel almost certain, would be inclined to go, and I think that a number of rent-payers would resent anything which turned them into workmen.

Mr. Marwick.] What proportion of these people would be able to buy land within the native areas, bearing in mind that only five natives will be allowed to combine to buy?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think that depends a good deal on the land itself and upon the quantity. I think if it were handled by the State and a limited amount of ground were made available for these people and the payments extended over a period of time that probably a large number of people would buy land. I might instance the Rev. Willcox's project, where every one of the holdings were immediately taken up by people.

Mr. Marwick.] I am speaking of these people who would be ejected from their tenancy, not the ordinary rank and file of natives in the Province, but of those natives who would be displaced under the provisions of the Act. What proportion would you consider as being able to buy land?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think under the system I have suggested that quite a large number of these people could, because some of them are paying rent up to £3, £4 and £5 and even more per hut per annum. If a system could be brought about by which they could buy a suitably-sized piece of ground with the use of commonage, spread over a 20 years' purchase system, I think a number of these people who are to-day paying rents would buy land if the ground was made available for them in a perfectly fair and square deal with the Government.

Mr. Marwick.] What proportion would you say?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think you would have to deal with a third as being people who could buy land.

Mr. Marwick.] So that if there were suitable land available for these people, you think that is all the relief that would be needed?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes.

Mr. Marwick.] If there were sufficient suitable land available for purchase by these natives no other hardship need be occasioned by the application of Chapter 3 of the Act as it stands?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, that is so, and guarding myself in this way—that those people are given reasonable time and facilities to get this land. I have given these answers on the assumption that there is going to be some relief by which these people can get into these areas with some sort of comfort; that it would not be a question of their choosing an abrupt alternative.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I should think proper Boards should be appointed to deal with native land matters in the same way as for Europeans. I should think it possible there would be a system of extended payment.

Mr. Marwick.] Would you be in favour of including the Inanda Wattle Company's land in native area?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I went over the ground, and beyond the portion of the ground which is planted with wattles the whole of that locality seemed to me to be in the hands of natives, or a great proportion of it, either by purchase, hire or otherwise, and the Inanda struck me as being an isolated European community.

Mr. Chapman.] But having spent about £50,000 in developing that property, and having further decided to put down a wattle extract plant there, would you then recommend it should come within a native area?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not know that the exclusion of what they are actually using need affect the position. The particular bit of ground on which the wattles are growing to-day from a native point of view does not signify very much.

Mr. Marwick.] What would your recommendation be in regard to that farm—the Inanda Wattle Company's farm in the Inanda District?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It seems a big property to ask the State to have to buy. I do not think the cost of that farm would be commensurate with the value to be got out of it as a native settlement.

Mr. Marwick.] What would your recommendation be about it?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Well, I should recommend, in view of that reason I have given, that, if it is possible, it might be left out.

Mr. Marwick.] Won't the purchase of these allotments complicate matters somewhat?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should only recommend what they are actually using at the present time and what they can reasonably show they intend using for their wattle plantation.

Mr. Chapman.] Supposing it became a European area, what would be the position of these people?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think it would be a pity, because that Estate has sold a considerable number of blocks to natives.

Mr. Chapman.] Don't you think it is almost a pity to allow these people to buy in view of the fact that a final decision has not been come to?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It would be very hard that they should not be able to buy—to keep them waiting indefinitely. The ground that is capable of growing wattles there is not suited for growing very much else. There is the principle of having a small white settlement in the midst of a native one, which is contrary to the principle of the Bill, viz.: territorial separation.

Mr. Marwick.] As regards Edendale, I see permission has been granted to lease one lot to an Indian and another to a European. I understand you are of opinion that it should be included?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I am of opinion that in the interests of the industrial centre of Maritzburg that a native settlement there would be a good thing and that therefore the township should be in a native area.

Mr. Chapman.] With regard to Zululand as a whole, do you agree with the recommendations of the Saunders-Dartnell Report and their delimitation, or do you agree with the recommendations of the Natives' Land Commission, where they have thrown practically the whole of the Crown Lands into the recommended area?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Of course, the Saunders-Dartnell Commission went very carefully into the requirements of the natives there, and they seem to have dealt very liberally with them as compared to the locations in Natal, for instance. There are one or two locations where, if the Saunders-Dartnell delimitation is to be considered as final, I think that more ground should have been given to the natives, that is up along the Ubombo: the locations there were taken along the face of the hills: there should, I think, have been a certain amount of flat ground at the foot of those hills for arable purposes. In time to come, I am certain that the arable ground along these mountains will not support the population. There was a bit of ground carrying a fair native population along the St. Lucia Lake, where a number of natives outside the locations were not provided for, and I was inclined to think that Tongaland should have come down to the Mkuzi River, including that remnant of Crown Lands south of Reserve 14; there are quite a large number of people there.

Mr. Chapman.] Generally speaking, you would not be prepared to alter the recommendations of the Saunders-Dartnell Commission? The Commission, I think, have said

they had made liberal provision for the future population of Zululand, and they hoped that no alteration would be made in future.

Mr. Wheelwright.] There is a large body of natives living along the Pongolo River from the time you enter Zululand proper until it reaches Portuguese border. Between the river and the location the country is dry: the people have been attracted down to the river and there is a fairly dense population there. I am of opinion that Reserve 14 should extend to the River Pongolo.

Mr. Chapman.] As regards those smaller areas like the Nqutu, Umhlatuzi Valley and Nkandhla, don't you think a very considerable hardship would be caused to the people who have recently taken up these lots if, on the recommendation of the Commission, they reverted and became native areas?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It would carry the same hardship that it would carry to all people falling within those areas. Those areas, especially the Qudeni and Nqutu, were the grazing areas of those natives there.

There was just one point: we are doing a certain amount of afforestation in the Zwartkop Location, and in fairness to the people we have got to replace this land that has been taken up, and we naturally want to get land adjoining the Zwartkop Location if such is possible.

Mr. Chapman.] This afforestation is for the benefit of the natives?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, it is a Trust investment for native advancement.

Mr. Chapman.] Could they not purchase land?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, but we do not want to shut the door to our being able to purchase land in the neighbourhood of the location. Quite a fair number have been removed—perhaps not so many kraals as garden lands. The area at present extends over some 2,000 acres and it is proposed to bring it up to about 10,000. That will mean the movement of a large number of people.

Mr. Chapman.] Is it not a fact that the Zwartkop is thinly populated at present?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, it carries a population about in proportion to the other locations. If you take away ground from certain people you have to replace it. There is the question also, of the water supply of Maritzburg. One of the tribes has land in the Impendhle District, but there are local tribes of whose land we should only require a portion.

COPY.

"Solitude,"
Krantzkop,
12.11.17.

To the Natives' Land Committee.

Gentlemen,—I am addressing this letter to you, on the recommendation of the Magistrate at Krantzkop, regarding my farm "Solitude," which I understand has been included in the list of farms submitted to Government as being suitable for native occupation under the proposed Native Lands Act.

I trust after reading this letter, you will see the injustice it would be to me, to include my farm, and that you will erase its name from that list.

I am informed that my farm was not included by the Magistrate, Mr. Barter, in the original list of farms submitted to Government by him. Mr. Barter has several times stayed on my farm, when collecting Hut Tax here, and has no doubt seen sufficient reasons for not including it. It was, however, afterwards included by the Commission who came to inspect the proposed farms. These gentlemen came as far as a hill about two miles away, from where only a partial view of the farm can be obtained, and decided it should be included. I leave it to you to decide whether they or the Magistrate were most competent to judge as to whether the farm should be included or not.

I have a retail licence for a store on this farm. This store was first established when the farm was originally bought from Government about 30 years ago. I myself have been running it since 1905. This store adds considerably to the value of my farm, as it is one of the best native stores in the district. Should I want to sell at any time, the fact of having a store on the farm would not enhance its value to a native, as few, if any natives are sufficiently educated to realize the value of a store. The probability is, I should stand to lose £700 or £800 on this one point alone. I might sell it to an European, but the fact that he would have a native for a landlord would depreciate its value considerably.

I consider the value of my farm puts it above the reach of native buyers. My farm would fetch about 35s. to 40s. in the open market. The extent of my farm is 1,413 acres odd. Where is the native buyer coming from to buy a farm of this value? I should have to spend a fortune in advertising it before I found one. What a native wants is a few acres of ground that will cost him from £25 to £50.

In the event of my being unable to find a native buyer, I understand the Government generously offers to buy the farm at 10s. per acre. This offer as applied to my farm, is nothing

less than an insult. Thirty years ago the Government sold it at 10s. an acre—bare veldt, not an improvement on it. To-day the improvements consist of:

An 8-roomed brick house with 3 verandahs.
A brick stable for 6 horses.
A brick wagon-house.
A large brick store room.
Large wood and iron milking shed, large enough to milk 30 cows in, with calf hock attached.
Wood and iron wagon shed.
Wood and iron carriage shed.
Wood and iron building used as Trading Store, with two store-rooms attached.
Wood and iron mealie hocks. Capacity, 1,000 sacks on cob, with shelling room attached, all roofed and covered in.
Dipping tank and kraals, tank roofed in. Cost £98 10s.
Brick and cement drinking troughs with piping laid on.
Several miles barbed wire fencing.

These buildings could not have been built before the war under a cost of £1,500, but should I want to sell, I must sell to a native, who does not value such things. A straw hut is more comfortable to him than a brick house, therefore he would not take them into his estimate of the value of a farm at all.

My mealie lands are in extent about 100 acres or more, outside of what my native tenants use. Some of these lands have been made at great expense and trouble. I have chopped down bush, dug out roots, and taken out boulders. I considered this work worth doing, as the soil is good, and capable of growing first-class mealies. I might state my crop last season was roughly 700 bags mealies, notwithstanding that it suffered severely in parts from drought.

Would a native consider all this? I fear not. They would probably hear that the Government offer is 10s. an acre, and as there would probably be no competition, they would be unlikely to bid much in excess of this price.

I think I have sufficiently stated my case, and trust after perusing the above you will agree with me that it would be a great injustice for the Government to put my property at the mercy of the few native buyers who might come forward in the event of my wanting to sell. I feel sure the gentlemen of the Commission had they only come and inspected my farm properly, would never have included it in the list.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) G. H. FRASER.

Copy.

Fawn Leas, Natal.

December 29th, 1917.

The Secretary, Native Commission,
Native Affairs Office, Pietermaritzburg.

Dear Sir,—I appeared twice before the Native Commission—on Land Act—to give evidence, and was under the impression that the Commission now sitting was to take any further evidence required on same Act. This week I heard that the Commission now sitting is on "Native Administration Act," and that there are some very important differences or alterations. I may state that I was sent a copy of Land Act, and asked by Government to explain to anyone enquiring and have not had any notice of alteration or copy of new Bill sent me. Had I heard sooner what I was told this week, I certainly should have appeared before the Commission when in Pietermaritzburg lately: in fact, I asked one of the Commissioners if there was any occasion for me to appear again, and he said unless I had any new evidence to give he did not see the necessity.

I now hear one of the new clauses is "that a native living on a farmer's land as a servant must work the whole year through." Another clause, I am told, is that a head of a kraal, even if an old man whose sons are working, must also work regularly. I also understand there is some clause about natives who work for a farmer living on such farmer's own land but not the actual farm latter lives on.

I have had forty years' experience here, and I have no hesitation in saying I am certain the new proposals or clauses will be unworkable and unfair, both to the native and employers. A native who is not actually in want of money, as a rule, wants from three to six months off work each year. Clause might read "At least six months in each year." Then as to older natives—heads of kraals, whose sons are working—we are accustomed to let such men

off service; in fact, he will not work, and the result will be, unless he can get his sons to pay the licence, he will be cleared off the farm under the new regulations. Each married native can take out his own hut ticket, and the old man, if he has no unmarried son, will have to move "where" and live "how." The object of this Bill can hardly be to upset all labour and industries.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. L'ESTRANGE, J.P.

Copy.

Riet Valley, Chaka's Kraal,
Natal, December 4th, 1917.

Morley, Esq.,
Secretary, Durban and Coast Society
of Agriculture and Industry,
P.O. Box 503, Durban.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your letter of 29th ult., only to hand to-day. Since I cannot arrange to be in Durban on Friday, 7th instant—the date fixed for evidence to be given before the Natives' Land Committee—I shall be very much obliged if you can put my case before the Committee.

My farm comprises sub-divisions of the farms "Riet Vallei" and "Vlakspruit." Since the proposed native area in this district takes in the whole of "Riet Vallei," you can see my position. If this is allowed to stand, my house, buildings, dipping tank, etc., etc., with half my farm, will be in native area, and the remainder in European area.

If the Committee could see their way to introduce the words "Remainder of 'Riet Vallei'" it would ease the situation. When Messrs. Chapman and Evans were here inspecting lands, I spoke to them on the subject, and they promised to give the matter their consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. E. ESSERY.

Copy.

House of Assembly,
Cape Town, 23 January, 1918.

Secretary, Natives' Lands Committee,
Natal.

My dear Sir,—I addressed a letter to Mr. M. S. Evans, as Chairman of the previous Committee, having reference to Lot 13, Umvoti, in Victoria County. I gave the history of its purchase, use, etc., and asked that it be exempted from the Schedule, and in conclusion asked that if this were not found possible there might be exempted that portion of the block which is an island in the Umvoti River. I need this island to give me the water which was a great inducement towards its purchase, and, further, it has become more necessary that the river bank should be the boundary owing to the recent floods which have diverted the river's course and thrown a considerable acreage from Lot 26—my homestead farm—into the Island.

I trust you will be able to put the letter referred to, with this, before your Committee, and that they will be able to meet my needs in the matter—to the full, if possible.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. F. CLAYTON.

Copy.

Acton Homes,
29th October, 1917.

To the Chairman, Native Lands Commission,
Maritzburg.

Dear Sir,—We were chosen by the Bergville Farmers' Association to give evidence before your Commission at Bergville on the 26th instant. We were there on that date but unfortunately, through stress of weather, your Commission could not reach Bergville. In the interest of the farming community, not only of Bergville Division but Natal, we feel it to be our duty to write you.

We have already given evidence before Mr. M. Evans and Mr. Chapman. Our evidence given before them should be available to you and accepted by your Commission as valid as given before you in person We have nothing to withdraw from that evidence, but we may say that for nearly forty years we have seen the danger of European and Natives living together on equal terms and governed under separate laws. We have given evidence before Native Commission and attended many Agricultural Meetings upon this question, with a view to securing some such law as the Natives' Land Act supplies.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. L. COVENTRY.
J. W. COVENTRY.

Translation.
To the Magistrate, Bergville, Natal.

Please send this statement to the Secretary, Natives' Land Committee :

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the proposed native area in the Division of Bergville is not fit for native occupation, but only for sheep grazing.

There is land for ploughing on "Solar Cliffs," "Brotherton," "Try Me" (Nos. 1 and 2) and "Leef Mare." Taking the five farms, only 90 acres is ploughable. On "Sheep Kraal" and "Try Me" (No. 3) no lands can be had. There are 5,000 sheep grazing. If the Berg farms fall within the native area, what becomes of the 5,000 sheep ? This is all the ground is fit for. Having lived there six years, I know the ground.

Herewith a few questions to the Committee :

Will Government declare 18,000 acres as Native Area with only 100 acres of ploughable land, which already holds 5,000 sheep ? In another two years there will be 10,000. We cannot all go in for agricultural farming. Government will shift us from the Berg farms, which are only fit for sheep grazing. What is the Government going to do with us settlers ?

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. C. LOMBAARD.

"Solar Cliffs," 20th October, 1917.

Copy.

"Brotherton,"
P.O. Zunckel's,
Via Winterton Natal.
3.11.17.

The Secretary, Natives' Land Committee,
Pietermaritzburg.

Sir,—With reference to the farms adjoining the Bambasa Location, Bergville District, which falls under the native area, I beg to state my views in writing.

The farms "Brotherton" and others are unsuitable for agricultural purposes. They are only suitable for grazing, specially for sheep during the winter. For cattle and horses it is good all the year round. If we farmers here have to part with our land we will be greatly obstructed in the stock farming, as between the five of us we have over 5,000 sheep which have to be done away with (that is bar the increase of lambs, which counts 2,000). I beg to ask what will become of us white people, as many a white man has already made application for a bit of Crown Land and had to be disappointed, as there is no land available. I think it unfair to take land from us and give to natives.

I beg to draw your attention that we have to look into the future as well. In another few years time when the country is thicker populated these Berg farms will be wanted for stock farming, when there will be not room enough on the land suitable for agriculture to do stock farming as well. Another thing—this is the only part in Bergville District in trying times of drought, as have been in past years, where there is a bit of grazing to be got.

Concerning the natives in the location, there is room for hundreds more if they only want to cultivate the land suitably.

So, Sir, I beg to state that I am against the Native Land Act.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. P. F. VAN ROOYEN.

Copy.

Makowe P.O., Via Somkele,
13th February, 1918.

The Secretary, Natives' Land Committee
Natal.

Dear Sir — I beg to return, with thanks, the map you so kindly sent me and which only reached me to-day.

I have the honour to suggest that the line be drawn from along north of Hluhluwe River —as originally set apart for Europeans (as I have marked in spots of black ink)—to the Munywana River. All land south of this should most decidedly remain for white settlement.

This piece of land has hardly any kraals and has not been occupied by natives, to my knowledge, for the last thirty years and would readily be taken up by Europeans for "mixed farming."

This land which is opposite False Bay-St. Lucia Lake, has great future possibilities for advancement by Europeans and which cannot be done justice to by natives. I humbly suggest that a strip of land twenty miles along sea coast inland from Umfolozi to Umkuzi Rivers be set apart for Europeans. I also humbly beg to suggest that a piece of land should be set apart for the Nunu family, who have great interest at stake, and the strip of land along the wagon road from Makowe to Nhlwato—about two miles broad by ten miles long (four miles of this between here and Dukumbane is not inhabited) be set apart for these people who have already made their homes, planted trees, etc., on it. They are progressive people and have their own Government-aided School at Dukumbane, which they helped to build, and also have about £140 on hand to build a church. They are all married by Christian rites. This settlement has been a great help to the district in supplying transport, mealies, etc., and to the natives in many ways. They are doing all they can to advance themselves and children. There are about 50 huts, *not kraals*, that would be affected.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES CROSLY.

Copy.

Untunjambili,
Krantzkop Division,
18.2.18.

The Magistrate,
Krantzkop.

Sir,—I have your notice concerning meeting of Native Affairs Commission. I am sorry I am not able to attend personally. I wish to state, however, that there is a deep feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the natives:

1. Because of the Native Land Bill.
2. Because there is a report abroad that those that enlisted for the Native Labour Contingent were treated harshly.

Now with regard to the first item: two or three farms in this district that *fall into the proposed native area have shifted hands recently.* The new owners, I am told, have given their native tenants notice to leave their lands. A good many of these natives have in recent years embraced Christianity and are anxious to be enlightened. Now they are suddenly turned off from lands entirely unfit for white men's occupation solely because these new owners want the lands for their cattle. These lands are *not* occupied by white men, and the natives that have lived there hitherto have lived there for *generations*. Every human being loves the place where he was born and bred, and when such things occur after the Native Land Act has come to light, natives naturally blame the Government for such occurrences. I thought it my duty to make you aware of these things and if you choose to lay them before the Commission I should be pleased.

* * * * * * *

Yours very truly and respectfully.

(Signed) JOH. ASTRUP.

Report of Meeting held in Agricultural Hall, Umzinto, Natal, on 18th January, 1917.

Mr. Robert Archibald welcomed the Committee, on behalf of the Alexandra County Agricultural Society.

Mr. M. S. Evans, in replying, explained the powers and limitations of the Committee, indicating the lines upon which evidence was invited, and the most helpful form it could take.

After some preliminary discussion it was decided that the members of the Agricultural Society present appoint a sub-committee to formulate their propositions and define suggested boundaries of alternative areas.

In the meantime, evidence was taken from persons having specific individual grievances as under:—

Mr. T. D. TURNBULL.] I bought the farm "Tophet" 16 years ago. The map then showed a road to the farm, but the road is not there yet. I have personally made six miles of road to my place, having to blast through rock a large part of the distance. My farm is 1,876 acres in extent and is valued by Government at 10s. an acre. There were 70 kraals when I took up the land; to-day there are only two. I have a dipping tank, house, and a considerable amount of fencing—several big paddocks—by way of improvements. I value land, with improvements, at £1 an acre to-day. There is no native in a position to buy an improved farm (and I have been slaving to improve mine for 16 years), hence I am against its inclusion in a native area. If I sell this farm I have to leave the district. I could no doubt get more than I paid by cutting it into small lots. It is rich soil, although broken, and very hot country.

Mr. ALFRED BLAMEY.] My farms are "Clifton Park" and "The Peak" on the edge of the location. Now I want to know on what terms they take the land from the owner. I have been to a great deal of expense, having spent a lot of money there on improvements—cattle and sheep dipping tanks, etc. I have had pure-bred merino sheep running there for some time and they do splendidly, not only condition but also wool. The abovenamed farms are treated as one farm, and are continuously occupied by my eldest son. There is a Post Office on the farm, and the main road runs through it. I would suffer monetarily if this farm came in a native area, and would be very sorry if it did. Both farms are completely fenced, excepting a small portion bordering on "Mfumfu." They are also sub-divided into paddocks. My son has been to a lot of expense in making a home of it. If I did part with the farm, where could I get another stock farm? I am fond of this, and it has done well for me. My son would be fearfully put out if he had to part with the place.

Mr. ROBERT CRUICKSHANKS.] I have lived in this neighbourhood for 15 years, and have had this farm, "Ballyglass," for 4 years. It is right in the native area, and I cannot expect it to be otherwise. My improvements, however, concern me. I have built a brick house, but I have stopped making additional improvements in the meantime, *i.e.* whilst it is speculative whether this part becomes a native area. The price of the farm is 12s. 6d. an acre—on the 20 years purchase system. It was bare veld when I took it up. I have European neighbours on two sides. We have made a road ourselves to High Flats Station. I grew 300 bags of mealies last year, but hope to have considerably more this season. There are only two or three Europeans there altogether, because it is remote. The land is good, and I would be quite satisfied to live there and have my home there. I make the natives work on my farm, and charge them no rent. The rent charged by absentee landlords having land in that locality is £2 a hut. I think the other Europeans there would be quite satisfied to take land nearer the railway in exchange. Mr. Cole would probably be better off if this land was in a native area. Mr. Blamey has done a good deal by way of improvements.

Mr. C. G. McKENZIE (Assistant Magistrate, Umzinto).] It would be very difficult to give the reasons why there should be any alteration or why we should dissent in certain instances without referring slightly to policy. In giving evidence before the previous Commission we recommended certain areas on certain conditions, but the conditions have not been complied with. We indicated an area which should revert to native occupation, but the Commission in their recommendations have added other areas. Now, personally, I consider it is far too much for a native area as it stands now. I mean to say it is unnecessary to reserve enormous tracts of land, of which practically no use would be made at all. Place them in that large area and they won't work. I maintain that the whole of these locations are not supervised, and the natives are allowed to live as they like.

By Mr. Evans.] The farms in the Umtwalumi Valley are somewhat rough, but they cannot be considered unduly isolated. In the old Zululand days 60 miles was considered an ordinary distance. There is a road leading out to High Flats. There are a good many natives living on the farms, but a great number are being ejected.

By Mr. Chapman.] We recommended that area conditionally, of course—*i.e.* that it should revert to European occupation. I think that the tongue of land between Mr.

Crooks' farm and mission reserve should be included. I consider that the Ifafa Mission Reserve is really suitable for European settlement. Location No. 3 and the eastern portion of mission reserve (Umtwalumi) should revert to European occupation. Location No. 4 should remain as it is—for natives; it is good land, but rugged. All the Crown lands in the north abutting on the Umkomanzi should be included in the native area. They are good lands, but un-get-at-able. I think if it could be arranged that the land mentioned revert to European occupation it would be of great benefit.

The amount of crime existing in the locations here is appalling. I was some years in Zululand, and it astounded me to find such a condition existed here.

Mr. W. THOMPSON (speaking on behalf of sub-committee).] We have indicated on this map two areas:

(1) With black crossed lines: This defines the area we recommend be included as native lands, whether our proposal regarding expropriation of mission and location lands be acceded to or not.

(2) With red crossed lines: This indicates the area we recommend as being reserved for natives in the event of the following scheduled areas being expropriated for European settlement:

(*a*) S.E. portion of Location No. 1.
(*b*) Umhlangwa Mission Reserve.
(*c*) Ifafa Mission Reserve.
(*d*) Umtwalumi Mission Reserve; and
(*e*) Location No. 3.

Note.—These areas have been indicated by Surveyor-General as follows:—

Area No. 1 (Sheets 62 and 63) by dash and dot line -.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.
Area No. 2 ,, ,, by dash - - - - - - - - - -

Our society wishes to urge most strongly that the whole of these lands that we now recommend are most suitable for European settlers. An increase in the number of European settlers is most necessary for the welfare of the Colony. There is an enormous area for giving the natives. The general trend of the natives is to go into industrial centres, and I think they should be encouraged as much as possible. By giving this land to natives we would get the Europeans practically all together, which would be a very fine thing. Large areas for natives without adequate supervision are detrimental. It is only a matter of a few years before Europeans are going to own all the farms at present owned by natives, unless they are put into native areas. We would like to see the native progress, and not to get into very large areas where they are getting into a lower state. The smaller the area and the nearer it is to the Europeans the better it is for the natives. Without supervision the native is going to the wall, but properly taken care of there is no doubt he is a very valuable asset to the country, and the question arises whether by increasing these areas largely the Government is doing the right thing. We are all looking for the betterment of the natives, and to see that he does not go backward.

Mr. G. CROOKES.] Regarding the mission reserve and location land recommended for expropriation—practically the whole of that portion of Location No. 1 adjoining the Amahlongwa Mission Reserve and the whole of that mission reserve are suitable for cane cultivation. There is not a large native population in the Amahlongwa Mission Reserve. What is not suitable for cane is absolutely good dairying land. The locality is well served by road and rail, and within easy distance of Umkomaas.

Mr. W. Thompson.] The Ifafa Mission Reserve comprises possibly the best land in the whole of the Colony. Taken as a whole (it is 6,200 acres in extent) its average value would be about £7 per acre. The Agricultural Society recommend that it be cut up into blocks of 200 acres or thereabouts for growing sugar. The facilities for crushing are unique, seeing that the Beneva Mill is situate almost on the boundary and the new Isizela Mill has communication by tram. The railway line runs along the northern boundary. It is, in fact, an ideal proposition for European closer settlement. It is surrounded by sugar, well served by road and well watered throughout. The same remarks apply to the Umtwalumi Mission Reserve. The northern portion is practically served by a steam tram running to Isizela. The south-western portion would be served by the building of a tram-line up the Umtwalumi Valley, which line would traverse the land. The soil is practically all suitable for sugar. This area is 12,000 acres in extent and would be valued at approximately £4 per acre. There is an ideal position for a central mill, the erection of which would be warranted by the acreage to be cultivated.

Location No. 3.—Our reasons for recommending this area are that it is right on the sea frontage, with the railway running right through. The table land on the top is ideal dairy farming country, being well watered. That portion below the main road to Port Shepstone could all be utilised for sugar—approximately 5,000 acres, of an average value of £5 per acre. The table land on top would be worth approximately £2 10s. per acre. The College lands, which we recommend as native area, were considered too broken and rough for European occupation, although the soil is good. They are full of natives and well suited for occupation by them.

Mr. GEORGE ARCHIBALD.] We as a community do feel aggrieved at the recommendations made by the previous Commission. The Commission only sat at Port Shepstone and certain gentlemen were invited to attend. They did so and made certain recommendations, which now we find have not been in the slightest way carried out or to have had any influence whatever with that Commission. They appear, when they have been able to rest, to have taken out a map and a ruler and marked off what they considered fit without any consideration of the European population here, leaving no land at all for future settlement. These are grievances, and we are very grateful that Government has appointed a Committee. We trust that our views will have your full consideration, because it is not for to-day alone that we speak, but for all the years to come—when the children of the people that are here now have families: they must live, and there is no further land for them to take up. It simply means that the whole country will be in the years to come one whole black mass of Kafirs, where there is no land for the white men to increase, so they must go elsewhere.

Mr. G. Crookes.] On "The Cedars" there is a homestead, house, outbuildings, etc., valued at over £3,000, including electric instalment and water laid on by power. The sub-division of the same farm "The Pines" has buildings valued at about £2,000. The whole farm is fenced and sub-divided into paddocks. On the lower farms "Glen Cliff" and "A. of Daventry" there are buildings valued at £500. On "Glen Snowdon" there is a building valued at £250. These lower farms are typical low-veld farms and are necessary for the proper working of farming operations, in conjunction with those on the higher lands. There are 600 acres of wattles on "The Cedars" and "The Pines." I naturally wish to be excluded from a native area.

Point-to-point description of recommended areas referred to in Mr. W. Thompson's evidence:—

Area No. 1.—(*a*) Starting from the N.W. beacon of "Fountain Head" (on the Umkomanzi River), round that farm, "Crowder" "Ellingham," the Umahlangwa Mission Reserve, "Springfield." "Glen Cliff." "The Cedars" to the N.E. corner of "Induduta," from that corner to the N.W. corner of "Glen Ashdale," down "Glen Ashdale" to the bottom corner of "The Hollows" to S.E. corner of "Glen Ashdale No. 2," to the S.W. corner of "The Cedars," round "A. of Daventry." "B." "The Mistake," "B. 8." "Golden Valley" (thus including all "Mysie Land") to the S.W. corner of "Glenroy," round "Glenroy" to the N.E. beacon of "A 6," thence round the S. boundary of Crown lands to the N.W. beacon of Location No. 2.

(*b*) From the N.W. beacon of "Fair View" (on Location No. 7—Ixopo Division), along N. boundary of that farm and around S. boundaries of farms "Baviaan Krantz," "Jolivet No. 3," "B.J.," "Moyeni No. 3," "Moyeni," "Moyeni No. 2," "The Ridge," to the W. beacon of "Inyango," taking in the whole of "Uzwizwi" and "Upelepele," running round N. boundaries of Forest Reserve, "Waterfall," "Hlokozi A.," and "Hlokozi 3" round S. boundary of "B.Z.," to point where it joins Location No. 7.

Alternative proposition (*Area No.* 2):—

From the N.W. beacon of "Fountain Head" (on the Umkomanzi River) in a straight line to the N.E. corner of Induduta, round N. boundary of that farm, "Glen Ashdale," down to S. beacon of "The Hollows," thence taking in "The Medal," "Buffalo Valley," "Hebras," "Trillick," "Mysieland." "Langlands," "Candle," "Glenroy," thence round "Sarasen," E. boundary of "Pilgrim," including "Quembe" and joining Location No. 2 at N.W. beacon of "Bobsland."

(*b*) From N.W. beacon of "Fairview" (where it joins Location No. 7, Ixopo Division), following S. boundaries of "Baviaan Krantz," "Jolivet No. 3," "B.Z.," "Moyene No. 3." "Moyene," "Moyene No. 2," to N.W. beacon of "The Ridge," round S. boundaries of that farm and round N.W. boundaries of "The Point," "D. Ellesmere," "Ellesmere," "Ellesmere E." "Mapungwane," "Pulumbane," "T.," "R.," "O.," of College lands, round W. boundary of "Oban." "T. 2," "T. 3," and "C. 7" to S.W. of latter where it joins Location No. 4.

Report of Meeting with Natives at Umzinto, Natal, on 19th January, 1917.

The duties and limitations of the Committee were explained to the assembly by Mr. M. S. Evans, Trpr. Whelan, S.A.P., acting as interpreter.

JEREMIAH SABASO (speaking on behalf of natives living outside Ifafa Mission Reserve).] We are acquainted with the country, but cannot see the land affected, as it has not been surveyed. We do not see our local chiefs to-day; how then can we reply, seeing they are absent? (Mr. Evans causes the position to be carefully explained, after

which Sabaso continues): Now we thoroughly understand the position. My own view is that I would like to be allowed to buy a farm in the white area.

KANYILE (a native of Ixopo Division).] I do not think any native land-owners have been to the magistrate to enquire how matters stood. When these areas are cut up, what will happen to natives owning and occupying farms within the Europen area?

MBIZA KUMALO.] I am a land-owner, and if a native buys a farm adjoining a European's it is pleasant to live in a neighbourly manner. We do not know the areas in which we will come. (It is explained that, generally, most of the native-owned farms fall within native areas.)

JEREMIAH MABASO.] I would prefer to live next to or amongst white people than in a native area. It is, of course, desirable that Europeans and natives living adjacent to each other should be good neighbours, but in the event of relations becoming strained it is always open for the white man to leave his farm.

MSELENI ZABA.] I never heard of anything of this kind being arranged, and did not enquire at the Magistrate's Office.

MAHLATINI NXAMANA.] My father bought a farm here before any white people came; this farm falls within European farms. What is going to happen to me? I would like to remain in a European area, as there has been no friction with my neighbours up to the present.

NGOTSHANA GOBHOZI (Chief of the Amahlongwa Mission Reserve).] What will happen to a native exempted from native law who finds himself in a European area? We are speaking now, although I do not know where the boundaries will be. When this area is surveyed will natives be allowed to buy ground in the native areas or will it be given to them gratis?

Chief MBINGELA NTSHINGA.] We were told by the British people that we could buy land if it were sold to us, and we must abide by their decision when the lands are divided.

UBHEKUMNYANGO SABELA.] I was at Port Shepstone when the Commission sat, and was one of those who did not agree to the division of lands into native and European areas. We do not wish for separation from the white people, as we have grown up under them. From where shall we procure our food if we are isolated amongst the kloofs and krantzes? We do not desire to be placed on one side; we wish to continue in our dealings with Europeans as heretofore.

UMAGENGE and NTUTANA MAKATINI expressed their views in almost identical language. Specific replies to the various questions raised were furnished and the assembly were informed that any recommendations made by the Committee were all purely provisional until approved or rejected by Parliament.

The Revd. W. ONSLOW-CARLETON.] I would like to give evidence on my own behalf as the missionary of the Ifafa Mission Reserve. There is a deputation of four "amakolwa" and I believe two or three heathens who also wish to express their opinions. Speaking on my own behalf, Sir, we have, of course, trusted to the title and deed of trust of the Ifafa Mission Reserve, which was granted in 1862, and we also presumed, in the terms of the Land Act, that this would not be interfered with. We have not come here, Sir, at our own wish. You have already reminded us that this is really outside the terms of your Commission, and I, personally, agree with you. We have broken in, but we are coming through a gap that has been made by others before us. The remark which you made at the close of these proceedings with these natives was a momentous one, in which you said, Sir, that a native need not part with or lease his land unless he wishes to do so should it fall within the European area. Mr. Chairman, of course I would not dispute your word: that is so, just in the same way as the title-deed secures our tenure of the Ifafa Mission Reserve, but, unfortunately, there is a possibility of that title-deed following in the way of other "scraps of paper" that have been torn up lately. What I mean, Sir, is this: that natives owning land falling within a European area need not leave that land unless they wish to do so. If this is really so and applicable in our case, we are content to sit down, because there is not a man at the Ifafa Reserve who will part with his land, held for him by the Natal Native Trust.

This matter has come rather suddenly upon us all at Ifafa. We got a whack on the head—to use a slang expression—on a dark night. We come to defend ourselves, and we find our opponents here facing us in the daylight. They might, I think, have done the same courteous act to us in their desire to have the Ifafa Mission Reserve expropriated, as they wish to do. The question—I admit it—is a big one and a serious one concerning beneficial occupation; that is the chief reason prompting my friends here in asking for the expropriation of the Ifafa Mission Reserve. It is not in their opinion beneficially occupied. Perhaps not, Sir, but first I would like to state that it carries over 2,000 people, over 250 head of cattle, not counting goats, and there are several hundreds of acres at least under cultivation. I know well enough that my friends here are not requesting the expropriation of the mission reserve out of any ill-feeling towards the natives. I know well enough that all my European friends have interested themselves considerably in the well-being and the welfare of the natives. It is solely on the ground

that the land is not beneficially occupied, and I now willingly admit that it is not beneficially occupied if we take the surrounding country as a standard of beneficial occupation. There are surrounding us large sugar estates. It is a district which should be developed for the benefit of the country, and there should not be any unnecessary impediment or obstacle placed in the way. But, Sir, why cannot the natives beneficially occupy it up to the standard which has been set by our European neighbours? Why cannot the Ifafa Mission Reserve grow cane, and why cannot hundreds of leaseholders become what is the backbone of the country—peasant farmers, and have their lots of cane? I am not going to enter into the economy of labour and so forth if the cane is planted by natives, but I contend, Sir, that the Ifafa people are keenly desirous of planting cane, particularly the Kolwa section. At present, within the boundaries of that reserve there are 500 acres of cane already in. I do not wish to misrepresent matters in any way: 167 acres is cane belonging to Messrs. Hawkesworth, leased as part of our glebe to them. That lease, I believe, expires next year, when we shall be taking it over. We have 170 acres already planted and we are busy ploughing to have the whole of the 300 acres planted with cane. Apart from this, the natives have planted up to the present 105 acres—a drop in the ocean in comparison with the size of the reserve; a ridiculous attempt in the eyes of the large cane-planters around us. I mean by that that if Messrs. Reynolds or Messrs. Hawkesworth had bought a farm of 3,000 acres that they to-day would simply pour in their spans of oxen and their gangs of hundreds of coolies and work until it was finished. But did Mr. Reynolds of Mr. Hawkesworth, as young men, or did their fathers, start in that way? Did they not start in a very small way with a few acres and as they gradually began to get their increase in cash did they not put it back in the land adjoining them? Now, that is what the natives are doing, Sir. It is only two years ago that the natives began to plant cane, and then we had many difficulties to contend against: our natives who wanted to grow cane were scattered; they had to plant at their homes, and they had to cart it for some considerable distance before they could get it to the mill. But that desire is growing, and the others see the advantages being reaped. All we want is a little encouragement to make the Ifafa Reserve a centre of industry. I admit, Sir, that if it were a question of unoccupied land or a piece of Crown land and the question was: ought it not to be occupied by Europeans, seeing it was surrounded by Europeans? then I would say: "Certainly, it should be so." But it is not; it is land vested in the interests of the native people and those who are going to benefit by the expropriation of that land are in the minority. Although my name is before you as an American missionary, I am not an American. I am a Britisher (I wish it to be recorded, please) and claim the British privilege of growling. Coming now to the question of my people, Sir, I say that my people at Ifafa are intensely loyal, law-abiding people, and you will find very little in the records of the Court against their loyalty or any difficulty in handling them. Here is something which we can quote, Sir, and make a little capital of: when the request, or the announcement we might say, of General Botha was made asking natives to come forward to form this Overseas Contingent, I think out of the whole of this division five men came forward, and, Sir, those five men, every man of them, came from the Ifafa, and the sixth man from Ifafa joined in Durban. Sir, I close my remarks with this statement: that if it is not possible for the Ifafa Mission Reserve to be developed in the cultivation of cane, then I have nothing more to say to my friends who wish it to be expropriated. The Land Act would not warrant our tenure on that reserve unless we fell in line with the general progress and attained to the standard of the district around us by cultivating that land with cane. Then, I say, we have a very poor case in spite of the deed of grant of 1862 and in spite of any excuse which might be made in the Land Act, but I contend in spite of the doubt that my friends have as to the ability on the part of the natives in going forward, I believe that that land can and will be developed if we have anything like a fair chance.

By Mr. Chapman.] I should say it is worth £6 to £8 an acre. It is very valuable land, otherwise there would not be trouble. Sir Frank Reynolds said he felt sure he could raise an average of 45 tons per acre throughout the land. We would be prepared to help to supply the organisation with the aid of the Native Trust. It is feasible, and it is possible. Besides we have the sympathy of the millers around us. We have applied for another site of 300 acres specially for cane, and that, I admit, is only a drop in the ocean. Our reserve is one of 12 belonging to our Society. If you touch one you take a corner-stone out of the whole structure. You establish a precedent which will cause us to lose many of our reserves. The mission and the Native Trust must consult and get down to the very bottom of things at Ifafa. The conditions there cannot remain. I do not want to go against any of my heathen friends, but the Ifafa Reserve can only be held by agriculturists, not by pastoralists. On the other hand, if the Ifafa Reserve was emptied of natives to-day, and we sent out notices to all our other stations, we should fill it up with prospective cane-growers. It is possible that 4,500 acres could be put into cane. Yes, it would be possible to arrange things if we organize them. The "kolwa" section to a man is in favour of it. The heathens are dead against it—not in their hearts, but they are forbidden by their Chiefs.

EPHRAIM GOBHOZI (a "kolwa").] It is now probably over 50 years since this

land was given to us as a mission. We have been living peacefully with the missionaries and the people in authority over us. We were in the dark when this ground was given to us, but we have progressed. We do not wish to be removed from this ground, as we have started to work it in a small way, and we are confident of progressing. We do not wish to be separated from white people at Ifafa. We have adopted European habits, and if we were moved from here we would have to go and commence in the dark again. It is to our white neighbours that we look for instruction and enlightenment. We are loyal and law-abiding. We furnished six men for service overseas, and I think more will follow. We ask that the Commission will help us to remain on this land. We do not wish our progress to be retarded and are confident of progression if things are allowed to remain as they now are.

JAN CELE (a "kolwa").] I can only say that we wish to ask the Commission to help us to remain on this reserve. We have heard others are desirous of acquiring this ground, but we are opposed to removal. We do not wish to leave our white neighbours, whom we know. We have asked the Government for another 300 acres of land for cane cultivation. (This witness also re-iterates sentiments expressed by previous speakers.)

By Mr. Chapman.] I have 32 acres of cane. I am the owner of a piece of land at Umzumbi, which I have acquired whilst residing at Ifafa. It adjoins another farm. It is occupied by natives who pay me rent. I am not a rich man.

SILAS NTULI (a "kolwa").] I was born on the Ifafa Reserve. In the early days our cane planting resulted in loss through absence of crushing facilities. To-day we have a leader (meaning missionary of station) to direct and help us. We see money is to be made on the reserve, and some have made it. I have no land outside the reserve.

MAVELA NTULI (a "kolwa").] (This speaker's remarks are mainly a repetition of those expressed by previous witnesses). I, personally, do not wish to work as a "togt" labourer with the possibilities now before me. The white people also did not achieve all their progress in one day. I have no land outside the reserve.

BHEKUMNYANGO CELE (a "kolwa").] The mission reserve has existed 55 years and we had hoped to live and die there. It is painful to think we are to be shifted to live in the wilds.

Mr. Chapman explained that there is no question of the reserve being taken away at present.

Revd. O. Carleton.] There are about 100 "amakolwa" families, *i.e.* 100 men on the reserve; raw natives say 250 families. I only know of two men, viz.: Jan Cele and Mqolokazi, owning land outside mission reserve.

uJAKOBE NGUBO.] I was born on the Ifafa Mission Reserve and am now an old man. We were living peacefully there and seeing work start after the arrival of the present missionary. My only regret is that my strength is failing, but I have advised my sons to follow the example.

BILI ZUNGU.] I was born on the Ifafa Mission Reserve, where my forbears also lived and died. The "amakolwa" are doing the planting. It is only a question of time before they will have planted all the reserves with cane.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly and proceedings terminated about 1 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken at Port Shepstone on 29th January, 1917, in Court House.

Mr. M. S. Evans made the usual introductory address.

Mr. A. H. GARNET BLAMEY, Chairman of the Lower Umzimkulu Farmer's Association, stated it was the feeling of that association that sufficient land had already been set aside for natives in the existing locations.

Mr. J. W. AIKEN, Hon. Sec. of the above association, read resolution of that body (copy put in and attached) and stated:—

I must say that I pointed out to my committee on Saturday that the resolution we had put in would probably not be acceptable to you, but I think if you look carefully into the matter you will find that all the locations we have in this division run out at 25 acres per hut. In parts of Europe we find a progressive family can live on 2 to 5 acres; that we found on our travels through Great Britain, where market-gardeners make a good living on 2 to 5 acres, in Holland on $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in China on 2 acres. Therefore, Sir, if they can make a good living in other countries, it is time that the native should be brought up to the mark and made more progressive. Hence we suggest that you advise the Government to see that the locations are properly taken in hand and put under supervision. We have pointed out that natives prefer to live on private lands than on reserves or locations. This I have noticed personally time and again, and it is quite understandable when one considers their superstitions. They are afraid of their super-superstitions; they know they are going to be at the mercy of witchcraft, and until this

is abolished I do not see how things are going to improve. We have also pointed out the proportion of the areas to be appropriated, and it seems scandalous, Sir, that they should take 44 per cent. from little Natal as against 1·45 per cent. from the Free State. I had the honour of being one of the deputation which approached Mr. Van Heerden. He heard us sympathetically, but pointed out that we had our duty as Christians to the natives. Now, Sir, can anyone here say that we are carrying out our duty as Christians in allowing the locations to continue as at present. (Hear, hear!). What are these locations to-day? They are absolutely hot-beds of crime.

Mr. A. H. BORGNIS.] Although not in the proposed native area, the farm occupied by me, "The Wolds," adjoins that area. Now, Sir, a good deal of money has been expended on improvements. I have four neighbours who have lately built houses on land adjoining me in the European area. There is a tendency at the present time, Sir, for settlers to come into this part of the country, a portion of which consists of quite good lands. This line as it is at present cuts a large fertile valley which would very shortly be occupied by Europeans. I know of people who would take it up if they could get it. I should say the farm "Cherrywillingham Park" is worth 25s. to 30s. an acre—parts of it are poor. I would recommend that the boundary of the proposed area should be changed to run along "Ndongeni" and "The Watershed" (excluding both), but including "Cherrywillingham Park," I would like to see "Bavaria" excluded; it would act as a buffer. The reason I have spoken about this is because we wish to put the boundary back as far as possible, because farming—either stock or agriculture—is very difficult if you have a location boundary alongside you.

Mr. Aiken.] Regarding "Westlands" and "West Slopes," the position is they belonged to my late uncle and still belong to the estate. I am personally executor for the whole estate, and I am gradually trying to get the land into my own hands. My son is there farming and has a good many cattle. He is living on "West Slopes" and running his stock on "Westlands." I wish these lands excluded. I intend using them myself. It means I am quartered if these farms are put in a native area. (Witness promises to furnish returns showing numbers of native and Indian tenants on these lots.)

Mr. A. J. LUGG.] I reside in the European area. I understand there is a big lime industry on the farm "West Slopes." If this lot falls within a native area there will be no room for European development.

Mr. R. M. McINTOSH.] I am representing the Murchison and District Farmers' Association. None of us are personally interested in this question of the land, but we understand we had to answer two questions as to whether any land should be excluded or more land included in the native areas. We have come here to give our vote to the effect that no additional land other than the scheduled areas (*i.e.* locations) should be granted to natives. The resolution of the Lower Umzimkulu Farmers' Association covers all the ground as regards policy we wish to emphasise.

Mr. Lugg.] I wish to support Mr. McIntosh's resolution and to add that the native locations should be put under better supervision than at present with a view to effecting economy in the extent of land used agriculturally.

Mr. Garnet Blamey.] Now, Sir, "Fair View No. 2" is already occupied by natives. It is a mission. All that flat land could give at least 40 tons of cane to the acre and is in the hands of the natives. I just wish to point out that the farm "Kloof End" (north of the River Umzumbi) is paying to the railway for fruit which is sent to the Cape as much as £1,200 a year. I should like to see the line for the white area taken further back from the railway so as to include more land—it is valuable for fruit culture—and would recommend a new line so as to include "Og," "Gog," "Ujambile," "Bembridge" and "The Start."

By Mr Chapman.] I think the natives concerned would sell and then buy land further back. I would ask the Government to give them every facility to buy land. I consider the land recommended for inclusion is worth at least £2 per acre. I bought my farm at £2 7s. 6d. an acre four years ago and to-day it is worth £4 an acre, at which price the adjacent farm recently changed hands. There are no improvements on these native-owned farms above mentioned.

Messrs. G. P. DARLOW and R. MELLICK.] Our farm "Og" (since re-named "River View" by us) is 381 acres in extent. We have 70 to 80 acres under cultivation, 40 acres of which are bananas. Improvements consist of wood and iron and brick and cement buildings and a store, valued at, say, £800. The farm was bought from Government about 17 years ago on the 20 years' system at 22s. 6d. per acre. There are 40 to 50 acres of good flat land on the river; remainder is broken. We have donkeys and a few head of cattle—about 40 head altogether. There is a good road from Umzumbi station about 9 miles in length. Mr. Darlow resides with his wife and family on the farm. We would be prepared to take a fair valuation. We do not want native tenants on our farm. In decent seasons banana planting is a sound proposition. The natives have some of the finest land in the whole country.

Mr. J. C. ROYLE.] Mr. Woods and myself represent the Umzumbi Farmers' Association, which at a meeting held recently endorsed the proposition put forward by the Agricultural Society in Maritzburg, unanimously, that generally we consider the proposed legislation as bad for the Union and bad for Natal, because we consider it will put back

European progress. We consider important legislation like this should wait until after the war. We have the example of the Home Government, where the Mother of Parliaments is putting back important legislation until after the war. I have seen the farm of my friends Messrs. Darlow and Mellick grow up, as it were. I was there before they went there, and if they were willing to sell now at what the land cost them plus £1,000 for their improvements I would be very glad to take it over. If everything was counted up you would probably double the price. No native could pay that, in fact they do not want the improvements; they do not put their capital into concrete sheds, etc. What is to become of these improvements?

By Mr. Chapman.] My place is called "Umzumbi Heights." It is a small piece of freehold land, 16 acres in extent. I have a store thereon. The main objection with our farmers is that the money they have put into their land would be absolutely sunk if it became a native location and natives only could buy it. Natives do not wish these improvements. I do not think they would buy land in very small blocks. Possibly my position as a storekeeper might be improved from a business point of view by inclusion in a native area. I should say it is a wild cat policy to allow natives to reside by themselves without supervision. I do not personally object to being within the native area but I do object to being unable to sell to anyone but a native, because I would never get a price for my property.

Mr. W. S. WOODS.] As representing the Umzumbi Farmers' Association (in place of Mr. Cruickshanks, who is ill) I wish to record a protest against the farm "Og" being included within a native area. If it is, it does not seem possible my friends will ever get their money back and it would be inflicting a great hardship upon these two men. I enter a protest against that farm being included.

Mr. F. R. RETHMANN maintains that with adequate supervision, as in the Cape Province, locations in Natal could accommodate a very much larger population. This gentleman had no specific evidence to give and his remarks constituted a criticism on native administration generally and the proposed Act.

Mr. H. GILSON, of "Belle View," Mbizana, called on the Committee in the afternoon. This gentleman had no direct evidence to give and was under a misapprehension as to the intention and working of the proposed Act, various points of which were explained to him at length.

Proceedings terminated at 1 p.m.

Report of Native Evidence taken at Port Shepstone on 30th January, 1917.

Present: The Committee, Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.N.C., Mr. G. Cauvin, magistrate. Mr. T. H. Oellerman acting as interpreter.

The usual introductory address was made by Mr. T. E. Chapman, and points needing special emphasis were personally explained by the Chief Native Commissioner.

Chief JEMUSI.] It is hard for us to reply to what has been said. I bought the farm "Quabe" and live here. I was told by the Government to clear off my lands at the Umtamvuna to make room for Mcotoyi and the Mnini tribe (who never came), so I bought the farm mentioned, which holds me and those I brought with me, but can hold no more. I make my request to Government that they provide a location for me.

MSIYANE (Induna of Chief Gcinangempi).] We can only lament, having really no reply to make. Our lamentations are based on sentimental attachment to our old kraal sites. Witness relates at considerable length the vicissitudes through which he passed before becoming a labour tenant on Mr. McIntosh's farm, where his sons work for him. His people had been scattered far and wide and he claimed that as a representative of a large tribe provision should be made for him.

Chief DIKWAYO.] My people live across the Umzimkulu. Unfortunately they were on lands which have been planted with cane, and they are now scattered. My people extend from the sea to the Mehlomnyama, spread practically all over private farms. I have no location, excepting 7 kraals which come within the location. I recommend the following farms be included in native area: "The Valleys," "Westlands," the farm below "The Valleys," the farm adjoining "Bavaria," west of the road. I cannot go further because there is a barricade of cane-lands, already planted. I wish to correct what I have said: I do not want the farm "Westlands" to come within the area, as it is in the cane belt. I cannot say how many natives are on these farms. There are a number of Indians on Mr. Aiken's farm, but they have been brought there recently. A wattle and daub house is being erected on "The Wolds," which is to be roofed with iron. Borgnis has been living with his father-in-law, Bru-de-wold. There are five kraals on the farm to-day, but some have been ejected. There are at least five kraals on "The Valleys" (Mills' farm). No European lives there permanently. Mr. Foxon's and Col. Royston's farms are rightly included in the area.

MELI (representing Chief M'BONJWANA).] I have been sent by my chief, who is ill, to say that his location is full and incapable of carrying further population.

Chief NOMYATULI.] I was one of those who were told by Sir Theophilus Shepstone to remove to make room for the Mninis. I am in the same position. I did not go.

I have a few kraals on the Crown farms, which is suitable country for us. We are ejected because we do not pay rent.

Chief GADUPI.] I have been given a certain amount of hope by Administrators telling us of these Commissions. I now live on Crown lands, but it is all krantzes; white people have taken the other land. There is a farm occupied by Andreason which would be suitable for me. All the ground below that is thorn veld up to Lugg's farm. I suggest you give me one decent farm on the top and extend my location to the river below the krantzes. I have only ten huts in this district, but have a big tribe in Ixopo Division. I am troubled about my people; they are constantly scattered, but if I could get a settled place they could surround me.

MBILENI (representing M'BONGWENI).] My chief is unable to be present to-day, but he understands the Committee will visit his locality. (An appointment is made to do so.)

Chief WILLIE FYNN.] The location originally laid down for us has been altered. Parts of the farms "Success" and "Glendale," also other farms, have been cut out of this location and the boundary on the south side was considerably encroached on from the original. I cannot name all, but the original location was greatly altered and poached from.

MBOBO (representing SITIYA).] I have only to say that my people have been cleared off farms, and are living in Nomyatuli's Location.

The assembly is informed that their representations have been noted and will receive consideration. During the meeting replies were furnished to various questions raised by different speakers.

COPY.

Lower Umzimkulu Farmers' Association,
Port Shepstone,
January 29th, 1917.

To the Members of the Natives' Land Committee,
Natal.

Sirs,—As a deputation of the above Association, we have been instructed to strongly protest against and oppose the action of the Native Lands Commission in marking off further large tracts of country, throughout the Colony, and particularly in this division, as native areas.

We contend that the system involved is entirely wrong, and until the Government has put the existing locations into order and under proper supervision, they have no right to contemplate placing further lands in native area. We have every sympathy with the native and recognise that something must be done to help and protect him, but consider it undesirable that the native should be altogether segregated, past experience having proved such to be a failure. The following figures show that the natives consider themselves better off on private farms, even paying high rents, than living in locations and paying no rent at all. In this division alone we have 32,000 natives living in locations, and over 40,000 on private farms, paying heavy rents.

Natives have frequently stated that they will not live in locations under the present system, and we suggest to you now that you recommend, before further lands are touched, that the Government at once take the present locations in hand, cutting them up into blocks to be given out to the natives under individual tenure and placed under proper supervision. We would point out that in this division alone the present locations consist of over 123,200 acres, having in them 4,855 huts, being about 25 acres per hut, while we find that in some of the most progressive countries in the world a family can make a good living on 2 to 5 acres of land.

We are dismayed at the proportion of land which the Commission suggest taking from Natal, as against the other colonies, and it would appear that their desire is to turn our garden colony into a native location, presumably as a reward for her loyalty. The following figures show the proportion of land marked off—Natal, 44 per cent.; Transvaal, 18 per cent.; Cape, 10 per cent.; and Free State, 1·45 per cent. Much of the land so marked off is now under occupation by European settlers who have spent large sums of money in improvements. They may not now sell to other than natives, hence their farms are for ever depreciated and improvements will cease.

We consider that the treatment meted out to Natal is a gross injustice to the Colony and fatal to her future prospects, and we trust that you as a Committee will do your utmost to upset the Commission's report and safeguard our interests.

We are, Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. H. GARNET BLAMEY, Chairman.
J. W. AIKEN, Hon. Sec.
A. H. BORGNIS.
J. F. RETHMANN.
I. B. CAWOOD.

COPY.

River View,
Batstone's Post and Rail,
29th January, 1917.

To Messrs. M. Evans and Chapman,
Natives' Land Committee,
Port Shepstone.

Dear Sirs,—As promised you this morning, I am now sending you the number of native huts I have on the farms: "Westlands," 18 huts, and "West Slopes" 39 huts, and may mention that some of these pay rent in labour.

As I explained to you, these lands have been practically tied for the last few years, owing to the deaths of both Messrs. J. B. and D. C. Aiken, hence I have been unable to deal with them, but some 18 months ago I took the matter in hand by putting my son to live there and he has now got there a good many head of cattle—over 50 head, and as I am being gradually surrounded here by cane, my intention is to gradually move my surplus stock on to these farms as I am crushed out here.

We have cultivation going on quietly the whole time and the most of the farm has been fenced, dipping tank erected, and sundry other improvements.

I am dependent a good deal for my labour supply from the natives on these farms, and as I have every hope in the near future of being able to put a large Lime and Cement Co. through, we will depend entirely on labour drawn from the Indians and natives living on the farms.

I trust you will see your way to advise the removal of these farms from native area if you have not already done so.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. W. AIKEN.

Report of Evidence taken at Mr. J. S. Clarke's farm in Lower Umzimkulu Division, on 1st February, 1917.

The Committee were met by the Chief M'Bongweni and about 30 followers, to whom the object and scope of the Committee's work was explained by the Chief Native Commissioner. After some enquiry as to the boundaries of the proposed additional native area, M'Bongweni is informed that his ward is not affected by the proposed addition in Lower Umzimkulu Division. M'Bongweni then informed the Committee that when the Natives' Land Commission sat at Port Shepstone he represented the need for an increased ward from Ezingolweni to Makasana Hill, thence round via Paddock to Izingolweni (boundary described in Minutes of 1st February, 1914). That representation was made, but they still await a reply and are somewhat surprised to hear areas have been set aside elsewhere without anything having been allotted for them.

Mr. Chapman.] Is their location fairly full? Do they need extra ground?

Induna NTIMBOTI.] We find the locations are becoming crowded, due very largely to people coming off farms. We have seen quite a number of farms cut out of land which we understood were part of our locations.

Mr. Chapman.] Are any kraals belonging to this chief occupying farms in the area described?

Chief M'BONGWENI.] There are many natives on these farms—quite a number of kraals. (Was unable to give definite numbers.)

The Committee stated in reply that the representations made had been noted and would receive consideration.

Report of Evidence taken in Town Hall, Harding, Natal, on February, 5th, 1917.

The usual introductory address was made by Mr. Evans.

Mr. HORACE TOLMER (farmer).] I took up two pieces of Government land—"Juluku" and "Moville." The former is freehold and six instalments have been paid on the latter. I have improvements valued at about £1,500. The extent of these farms is about 1,500 acres. I have about 80 acres of wattles and cultivate about 50 acres of mealies. I have 150 head of cattle. Mealies yield about 7 bags per acre, without fertilizer. I have 650 sheep and wintered 800 there last year. I have about 40 pigs. From 530 sheep I sheared wool, for which I recived a cheque for £260 this year. I have sent 385 lbs. of butter-fat away during January. I have also a house (brick), tank,

orchard, shed, fencing, and various other things which one has to have on a farm. I would most certainly like to be excluded from a native area. I had nothing to start with—the little bit I have now I have made on that farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am quite satisfied with it as a farming proposition and expect to take between £600 and £700 (gross returns) this year from the farm. I consider I would be adversely affected by being in a native area. If for any reason—ill-health or otherwise—one had to sell, buyers would say: "You are in a native area; I will not give you the price you ask." I have made a home and am prepared to settle there.

Mr. R. G. HERBERTSON.] I would like to say that I have been farming in the midlands and uplands of Natal for the last 16 years. I have been managing the farm Lot R. in this proposed native area for the last 18 months. I may say that my experience tells me this: that I consider this the best farming district from a dairying point of view that I have ever farmed in. Winter feeding is not required and the stock is always in good condition. I am at present residing on the farm "Bedford," which I rent from the Government on a monthly lease, and I am desirous of taking it up. I would like to be excluded, if possible, from the native area. This farm "Bedford," I may say, gentlemen, is supporting one native hut at the present time. The land is all sweet veld, and it is, in my opinion, unbeatable from a dairying point of view. For cultivation it is fair, and I consider with fertilizer one might grow a good crop of mealies.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have made application to the Government for this farm. I have not been told the price. I would be willing to take it at £1 an acre. I am building huts there to-day. There are just over 1,000 acres. At present I am paying 25s. a month. It is bare veld now.

Mr. JOSEPH COLIN SINCLAIR.] My position is much the same as Mr. Tolmer's. I run 200 sheep and 100 head of cattle. Mealies do well on my farm. I have 95 acres under this crop. With fertilizer I get 7—8 bags per acre. I have 15 acres of wattles. I send about 300 gals. of cream away per month at present. My farm is fenced, except one portion which I am fencing now. I am paying Government instalments for their portion of the fencing. As for dairying, it is hard to beat. I should not care to give it up. There is good winter graizng on the lower portion of my farm. There are fenced paddocks on the farm. I value my improvements at £1,150, including everything. I have paid 4 instalments on my farm, the acreage of which is 1,150. My gross income is about £500 to £600 a year. There is a good living there. I would prefer to be in a white area to a native area. If I lived in a native area there would be trouble with the natives; they would make the trouble.

Mr. JAMES JOHN OOSTHUIS.] I am on the farm "The Gorge," in extent 1,200 acres, which I have had 8 years. I bought it from Government on the 20 years' purchase system and have paid 6 instalments. The price is 10s. per acre. I have 150 acres of black wattles, 120 acres of mealies, which average 7 bags per acre, and 145 head of cattle. I have 50 sheep there now and am taking down 250 on 15th of this month and another 50 on 10th April. I am hiring these sheep. Sheep do quite well and I am satisfied they are going to answer. Last month I sent away 64 gallons of cream testing 52 per cent. The farm is not completely fenced, but I am finishing it off now between "Jonyana" and Mr. Sinclair's. I would like to be excluded from the native area. I have paddocked off a good deal; there is a lot of money laid down in fencing. The fence being erected now will cost from £60 to £80. All my improvements, including black wattles and fencing, I value at between £1,200 and £1,500. I take the value of the black wattles at £5 per acre as they stand now. Buildings—at a very low valuation—I place at about £200.

Mr. CHARLES MONTAGUE ETHERIDGE.] I am a solicitor practising in Harding. I am the owner of the farm "A of Y," commonly known as "Croydon." The condition of affairs in Alfred County is entirely altered now that the railway is going to be opened to Harding on March 5th next, because hitherto the farmers have had no outlet for their produce. They had lost heart waiting for the railway, thinking it would never come, but now they are able to get their cream, bark and other produce away at a moderate cost for transport. It is admitted by every person in Alfred County that all the farms on the eastern side of Harding are the pick of that county. You have sweet veld and no winter feeding is necessary, whereas the farms on the western side of Harding are sour veld; the cattle get bone disease and in many cases they have to feed in winter. Several farms that have been recommended to be included in the native area I consider the pick of Harding district. These farms are within 2½ to 7 miles of the Selhurst (Ihluku) railway station. There are very few stones on the farms, which are well watered and are magnificent agricultural farms. The farm that I own—"A of Y," commonly known as "Croydon"—is only 615 acres in extent and to-day it is carrying 128 head of cattle, although 100 acres are ploughed up. 80 acres are planted with mealies and 20 acres are now being put in with millet. The manager of that farm, Mr. William Otto, says it is undoubtedly one of the best farms in Alfred County. The farms adjoining "Croydon"—Mr. Sincleair's, Mr. Tolmer's and Mr. Oosthuis'—are all magnificent agricultural and stock farms. As owner of the farm "A of Y" ("Croydon"), I strongly protest against this farm being included in the native area. I have listened attentively to Mr. Evans' speech and was very impressed with it until the end, when we learnt that those falling within a native area would be

governed by proclamation. Well, we have seen that class of Government in East Griqualand and we feel we should be sitting on a keg of gunpowder. We never know what governing by proclamation may lead to. If the law was going through in its present state we should know where we are, but by proclamation our rights may be snatched away at a moment's notice. I think it is most unfair that these farms which are on the fringe, as I may say, of the area recommended by the previous Native Commission should be included, when they are so close to a railway station and are such first-class farms. I have many enquiries for farms on the eastern side of Harding and not one of the owners will sell. Those who are willing to sell want £4 per acre. All these farms are within 8 or 9 miles of the railway. On this farm "Croydon" I intend placing my son, who is 15 years of age, after he has left Cedara Government School, where he is learning farming. The manager of this farm has only been there since July 1st and since that date he has erected a shed for 30 cows, dairy, homestead, ring-fenced the farm; has laid off two paddocks and is laying a third. We send 20 gallons of cream per week to the Natal Creamery. He has, I suppose, more farming implements than any man in the county. My neighbours—Messrs. James Oosthuis, Sinclair and Tolmer—are all owners and occupiers of their farms and are working them beneficially. I suggest that the boundary be re-adjusted so as to exclude those farms which are on the fringe. After some discussion the witness and other affected owners formed themselves into a Committee and recommended amendments of suggested boundary as shown by dot and dash line on maps, thus -.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.

Mr Etheridge (continuing).] I also own 167 acres of the farm "Stocklands" which is in the area recommended as a native area. On each side of my piece are portions (600 acres each) of Crown lands. The Chief John Duka Fynn lives near there; he has no native location lands in this division and I believe he is asking for these two Government pieces of land to be given him as location. I could not conscientiously ask for "Stocklands" to be excluded from the native area. I willingly submit to that and I expect the Government will buy this land from me, which they can have at a reasonable price. He (Chief John Duka Fynn) would then have 1,500 acres. I was satisfied that the 167 acres should be included in the native area.

By Mr. Chapman.] When I was questioned, and I am still of the same opinion, I said "If you are going to take any land away from the Europeans in this division, that is the land which should be taken away. If Europeans have got to give up their lands, these farms should be taken in preference to farms of men who have been here 35 to 40 years." Some of the land is not worth 5s.—on the Umzimkulu it is very broken. But the condition of affairs has altered; land has jumped up to £3 an acre since we have got the railway. Natives have been to me to buy land in small lots and I have told them they cannot buy. I disagree with the view entirely. No native could afford to buy 500 acres; what native could put up £1,500? I think a native could live on 50 acres, which would include his grazing land. One of the most progressive native farmers is Bek'impi, who has only 70 acres. He sends away 4 or 5 gallons of cream a week and grows crops, but natives generally would not be so progressive as he is. You could not get water on every patch. We had lost heart and had heard that the railway was not coming. I still say that some of the land in this proposed area is only fit for monkeys and baboons and not worth 5s. an acre, but some is worth £3 and £4 an acre. I would now substitute 10s. to £3 10s. an acre for prices then given. At that time I was "Kafir-farming," but since then I have given it up and sold these farms—one to Mr. Demont and one to Mr. Martell, also one to Mr. Prentice. I spoke of Alfred County as a whole at that time. I do not know whether my pronunciation was bad at that time, but I said Mr. Tolmer would never sell. I referred to him and Mr. Jim Oosthuis. At that time Stafford owned the farm "Lot R" and he was then willing to take 10s. an acre. As I said before, directly the railway comes here farms that were only worth £1 will jump up to £3. I value "A of Y" at £4; it is one of the very best farms in the division.

Mrs. SCOTT-RIDDELL.] The question should be on a broader basis than has been thought of to-day. We should consider the country as a whole and posterity. You intend giving to natives, whose influence is retrograde and deleterious to any country or part of the country—the pick of this county. As you heard from Mr. Etheridge, before this we had no railway and no means of progressing. You, as Commissioners, have been through this part and seen its capabilities. Those who have farmed in other parts say Alfred County is the finest they have struck for dairying, and you propose to give the pick of Natal to Kafirs! What does a Kafir do with dairy-farming country? He does nothing but scratch here and there. I have lately acquired a farm there—"Lot R." If this is put into a native area how can a young fellow live there? No decent young fellow will go and live amongst Kafirs; he is dragged down at once. The moral effect on the whole country is deleterious—it damns the whole country. If we stay on these farms and improve them, as we should do, no native would buy our improvements. What do they want with improvements? A native would knock down a door for firewood to cook his pot. If you place white people amongst natives they are done for, yet for a few natives you propose to penalise six decent, respectable and progressive white people by throwing them into native area. It seems quite unfair to take the pick of farms along the railway line and give them to natives who cannot be expected to progress in the next 500 years. We do not want to provide for that time; let us provide for now. You say "You can keep your farms." So you can, but are we going to put decent young fellows there? Never.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have only just bought my farm 18 months ago from Mr. Stafford and my idea would be to improve. I paid £1 1s. 1d. per acre.

Mr. Chapman.] You were aware it was in the proposed native area?

Mrs. S. Riddell.] No, I was not. I did not know.

Mr. Chapman.] You probably would not have bought it had you known?

Mrs. S. Riddell.] No, I do not think so for a minute.

By Mr. Evans.] We bought the house there. We have put up fencing-paddocks. At the present time we have been changing. We have looked out a site for a house. Our wish would be to improve the farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, I would not be prepared to sell. One must look ahead, and I have my son in France now. It would be in my interests to sell because I bought it cheaply, and I am told it is one of the finest dairy farms in the county.

Mr. A. F. H. NEWTON.] I am dead against any of this land being given to the Kafirs. I think it is a mistake. The Kafir cannot use decent land like that to advantage. My farm, "Mona," is 1,348 acres in extent. I bought it privately from Mr. Oosthuis. My improvements consist of about 50 acres of lands. I am preparing to build a house, but do not care about going on. My improvements are inconsiderable. I should be sorry to leave. I would prefer to be in a white area to a native area. I would not be prepared to sell for less than £2 an acre.

Messrs. A. G. PRENTICE, J.P., W. A. HUTCHINSON, J.P., and Dr. W. CASE, speaking as delegates from the Alfred County Farmers' Association and Agricultural Society:—

Mr. A. G. PRENTICE, J.P.] Speaking this morning, I wish you to understand I am disinterested. My farm is not affected in any way. I am speaking for the county. I gave evidence before, as you know, and I adhere now to-day to the same evidence given then. But things have altered now: this is quite a new Bill that is brought before the Government and the endeavour is to try and settle what has been called the "Native Question." The matter has been brought up for very many years and it has never been properly tackled, but I believe there is a conscientious move now to do so, and it appears to me it should be tackled in the best possible way and the way that will give the smallest amount of trouble to the people in the country. Now, with regard to this question: before I said that it was unnecessary to increase the native locations, and I still adhere to that, *i.e.* if you take the words literally—that the native locations require enlarging. They do not. The amount of land allotted to the natives of this country in locations is ample; it is more than ample; it is so large that the land is not properly used, *i.e.* as regards the old locations. But the question before the country, I know, is that raised in the Cape Colony, where the natives, who have been living with Europeans for a very long while, are far more advanced than they are in Natal; the natives there were buying up land; they would appoint an agent to attend a sale and outbid Europeans, and that was the trouble. They were dotted about amongst European farmers, and they would make those farms that they bought private locations. Now, that is the trouble, and that is the root of the evil which has made men bring this matter forward in this and the other Provinces. Well, now, the endeavour is to set lands aside which natives can purchase. I mention this because I still adhere to the evidence given at Port Shepstone. The question to-day is that land should be set aside and that should be done in a proper way. Now, I may say that the Commissioners before did not go round the country. They just went over the map without consulting the inhabitants and old residents of the country. They just met different men in the street and asked what they thought, and that is why Mr. Etheridge's evidence seemed different to what he gave then. The thing should have been done as you are doing to-day, gentlemen: to see the country; meet the people and find out the best method to adopt, and I wish to assist you in every possible way to try and do this, but it appears to me to take off lands the late magistrate suggested—to cut off farms and throw them into location—it is a bad and backward move. It is land suitable for agriculture and dairying, and to give it to the native is not putting it to the best advantage. I do not think it would meet the object of this Bill, as I view it, *i.e.* to separate the the native as far as possible. Now in this area there are included good farms. I have resided in this county over 40 years, and have been in other districts in Natal, and I have come to the conclusion (as I did years ago) that there was no better district than Alfred County in Natal. I have been able to prove it and to show that this county can compare with any other county in Natal, taking it all round. Now, to take land like this and put it into a native area will be a great mistake, and I suggest that all these farms here which are suitable for dairying, that is for European occupation, should not be included in this area. I would go further, Sir, and recommend that the four native-owned farms which are included in this area be acquired; that the owners be compensated and other land bought up for them and place them in a native area, taking them out of the white area. These farms are lovely grazing ground, and to put natives on good grazing land is a mistake, because they cannot find the gardens to cultivate. They won't take a poor stretch of land, put in a few tons of fertilizers and work it up to a state of fertility. The native requires land in the rivers, and as a rule broken country

suits them better. There is land in the Umzimkulu Valley which would be suitable to put aside for natives. They seem to do well in that class of country; it is warm, and they generally farm a type of cattle which will live in this thorn country. But to take good grazing land and put natives on it is a great mistake. They plough up a garden and in a few years it is worked out. If you plough up good grazing it may grow a miserable crop of mealies, but in a year or two it is absolutely useless, and that land will never grow red grass again once it is killed, and that is what happens with natives on the highlands. The country is being ruined and growing nothing but wire grass. At the same time, we have to treat the native with justice, and we must try and hit upon a scheme which will be fair and just to them. It is far better these natives should be fairly and properly compensated and given a chance of getting suitable land—even if it is more—than they should be jammed up amongst Europeans. There are other parts of the country where land is suggested, but it seems a great pity to me that European lands along the main road near Mr. Brown's should be native area. The trouble occurs that you cannot move your stock along the roads, because we all know natives will not look after their stock and dip as the European does and there are continual outbreaks of disease resulting in the whole country being locked up.

Mr. W. A. HUTCHINSON, J.P.] Three of us were appointed to give evidence before the Farmers' Association. I take it you are simply and solely round to examine these lands and try and decide in which area they shall be put, and the Farmers' Association, I think, were certainly unanimous that that piece of land which has been referred to again and again, that if it were kept in the European area it would be better that it was not a very large area. The Farmers' Association thought it could be arranged that these few farms could be thrown in the European area. I think you have heard a considerable amount of evidence from owners of land in that part. We consider it is good land; that times have altered very much owing to the railway, bacon factories, creameries, etc., and that Europeans could make a very good living there. The Association thought it would be better if that land were thrown on the European side and not on the location side.

Dr. W. CASE.] As you have heard, Mr. Prentice and Mr. Hutchinson and myself were deputed to represent the Agricultural Farmers' Association and give evidence before you. You have heard a great deal of evidence from the owners and they one and all agree that it would be very undesirable that they should be taken out, as they are now, and placed in a native area. Before I say any more I would like particularly to impress upon you that the evidence given before the Commission at Port Shepstone was a hole and corner one, because those affected by the so-called demarcated area were never consulted. The magistrate simply took his pencil and marked out an area. Then he went to two or three and asked them to give evidence. He certainly did not in any way consult the wishes of the general public or the farmers affected. You, Mr. Chapman, have cross-examined one gentleman who gave evidence before you. You must admit that even in a short period of two years, that the conditions of a district may alter considerably; that land worth only 15s. an acre has considerably enhanced in value. I fully bear out what Mr. Etheridge says: that there is land now honestly worth £3 10s. an acre. We have all agreed that those affected should come within the new line suggested. There are 4 natives in that area. I take it, gentlemen, that those four natives, if they are left in the European area, that they will be shifted in the course of time. (Witness is informed that they can remain if they elect to do so.) There are only four natives affected, whereas you are going to affect six European owners with a much larger acreage.

The Committee addressed the meeting on various points of the draft Native Administration Bill of 1917 concerning which the assembly appeared to be under misapprehension, and proceedings terminated about 1 p.m.

Report of Meeting held with half-castes at Harding, during afternoon of February 5th, 1917.

Present: Messrs. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G., C.N.C., Natal; H. M. Barker, Magistrate, Harding; J. E. Brown, Enqabeni; R. Mayne, Inspector of Locations; W. Gold, Acting as Interpreter.

The assembly elected to use the Zulu language as the medium of expression.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address.

ALFRED FYNN, living at "Paarde Kraal" (in the European area).] I would like to point out that there was never a calf born which was chased away with its mother; calves always follow the fathers. My wish is that I may live where I am now, amongst the people I have lived with always. I dispute with nobody, but keep on good terms with all. I am exempted from the operation of native law and live under European law. I claimed and was granted Letters of Exemption.

E. F. HOUSTON.] Does this mean that those falling within the native area come under Kafir law? I am at present under European law, being classed as a European, and would prefer to be in a European area.

MARK CLOTHIER.] I would not like to see my farms bought by natives. I would rather see white men buy them. I would sooner take a European's money before I took a native's.

Chief J. H. FYNN.] I understood from the Commission at Port Shepstone that there would be an addition to locations. There was no question of buying land at all. (Witness is informed of the provisions of the draft Act and that areas might be set aside for communal occupation by a tribe). There is a possible chance that another tribe may be placed adjacent to where I have been living peacefully with my people. Members of different tribes might buy land in an area: this would create difficulties. In the past we have lived peacefully on our present sites: what is the reason Government takes steps to alter this state of affairs?

Mr. Evans.] Because Government consider it would be much better if they were in distinct areas which could be governed more satisfactorily than if they remain scattered about about. They must know that a native living in a white area is at a disadvantage, and Government wishes to remove that disadvantage.

Chief J. H. Fynn (continuing).] Where is the money to come from if Government buy the land? Is Government going to buy them entirely out? There are two pieces of land ("Lugi" and "Ebenezer") in location belonging to Mr. Clark, who will come into native area. Let the Government buy these two pieces of land within the location and do some good with them.

Mr. Evans.] We agree with him that there are areas which should be acquired by the Government and become a native area.

Chief J. H. Fynn.] Why have that strip of European farms between my land and the proposed native area?

Mr. Evans asks whether he would like this strip of European farms to become part of a native area.

Chief J. H. Fynn.] No, I have no wish for it to be taken, because I am against either portion being taken.

Chief J. DUKA FYNN.] I wish to say I am on Location No. 8. This place is called location, but really it is not. (Witness is informed it is a small location, a grant to the Native Trust.) I and my tribe are living on farms. I have one wish: there are two places that are Crown Lands which I would like apportioned to me with my tribe, viz. portion of "D.F." and portion of "Stocklands." My tribe wish that it should be given to them.

IZAAK CLOTHIER.] I have half "Clothier No. 2," in extent 794 acres. I am under European law and wish to continue under same. I do not wish to leave my farm.

JOHN OGLE, representing JAMES FYNN.] I am here to represent James Fynn, who is an old man and not able to travel. He has sent me to ask what has happened that things should be changed to-day. I wish to remain as heretofore.

NED FYNN.] I wish to say I have no farm, but am living on J. H. Fynn's location. I have no title at all. I have no money to buy any land.

Chief J. Fynn.] The natives have no wish to buy land now. They missed their opportunity when they still had cattle and land was cheap. To-day they could not buy. I do not think they would buy small lots. When my father was alive he suggested they should buy some farms, but the idea was not entertained.

Mr. J. BROWN, of Enqabeni, Farmer and Storekeeper (European).] In the course of your remarks you said it was possible that the Government might take up a tract of land, put a tribe on it. Well, I think that would affect myself and a good many here if it were done. The land at Enqabeni, as I think you will agree, including my own piece (one of the worst blocks of the lot), Clothiers, Houston and some of the others, are splendid lots, and if it was the intention of the Government to do anything of that sort I should think it would be one of the first pieces to be taken up. It would be very hard lines on the Clothiers and some of the others who would be turned out, because they would be debarred from buying land other than in a European area.

Mr. Evans.] It was not suggested that land should be occupied tribally. I should say it is about the last piece to be treated in that way, but there might be other pieces more suitable elsewhere.

Mr. Brown.] One of the worst points to my mind is this: that we are all working on theory, on supposition. We are supposing that the Government will not do this and that—that they will allow us to stay on the land undisturbed, but they have the right, if they think it necessary, to take a block of land; they take it up under arbitration. If that is done in my case I could buy in European areas, but with John Fynn, if they took his 3,000 acres away with him, where is he going to buy his land? He would have to buy it in a native area and he would not be able to buy 3,000 acres with the same money. I think it would be possible to correct this line again to leave out Clothiers, Houston, James Fynn, William Mellick, myself, "Orange Grove," Dickens, Joe Laurence—you would then be leaving out the land which is all freehold title. I think if we were under a European area there would be less likelihood of land being expropriated. I wish to add a general protest against being in the native area.

Chief John Fynn asks if he can continue charging natives rent in the event of his farm falling in native area and is informed in affirmative, also how he would have to act if within a European area.

E. F. Houston.] I think we are all against this being placed in a native area. It is all right so far, but suppose my neighbour, Mr. Clothier, sells his farm, and others, and that they are taken up by natives. That will force us to leave—that I will have to sell it. I cannot be surrounded by a native location, Sir; things will be very awkward for me, and if this falls into native area it will eventually all go to natives because some of us are bound to sell in time. It means if my place falls within a native area I cannot improve by building a house. I will be forced to sell because my neighbours will force by hands. That is some of the best agricultural land in Alfred County.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I would send my children away to school. I was in Creighton in the centre of Europeans, but I will say that was what made me leave Creighton. I had 400 acres, which I sold for £4 an acre. I was like a black sheep amongst a lot of white ones. I was treated very well by the European section there, I must say that, but I did not feel in my place.

Mr. Evans.] The same thing may happen if you are in a white area. There are disadvantages on both sides.

E. F. Houston.] I would rather take my risk in a white area, on the white side.

Mr. Wheelwright addressed the meeting on the points directly concerned with administration which had been brought up during the afternoon and proceedings terminated at about 4.30 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken in Magistrate's Court-room, Ixopo, Natal, on February 10th, 1917, during forenoon.

The usual introductory address was made by Mr. M. S. Evans.

Mr. H. E. G. FANNIN, President of the Ixopo Farmers' Association, read two resolutions which had been passed by their Association (copies put in). These resolutions, he stated, reflected the opinion of the inhabitants of Ixopo Division.

Mr. C. E. HANCOCK.] I cannot think it was the intention of the Commission that the farm "Hancock Grange" should be included in a native area. There is a subdivision, which they call "Webbstown," I believe, owned by natives, which could fall within a native area. I recommend that the main portion of "Hancock Grange," which is in the ownership of Mr. Webb, should be excluded from the native area. I will furnish details, as to boundaries, etc., later. It seems to me that the inclusion of the whole farm was simply a clerical error, in view of the improvements, proximity to railway station, etc. I was appointed by our committee to deal with this part.

Mr. A. V. ALLAN.] As one of the representatives and the member of the association duly appointed to deal with the Umkomazi Valley section from the farm "Bromham Hall," I recommended the exclusion from the native area of the following farms: "Dilston," occupied for some 20 years by Mr. J. L. McKenzie. Irrigation is practised and splendid crops are grown on this farm. "Rankelour," owned by Mr. V. W. Taylor and occupied for over 40 years. Carries splendid improvements and is exceptionally good for agriculture and stock. One block of 500 to 600 acres can be cultivated. This farm is treated as one property with "W.D.I. 5" and "W.D.I." "B. of Waterfall," occupied by Mr. Pembroke. This is owned by Mr. Marwick and farmed in a very up-to-date manner. There are irrigation works; the land has been cleared of dense bush, and tip-top crops are grown. There are very fine buildings on this farm, which produces 1,500 bags of mealies annually and carries 500 head of stock. "No. 1"—presently unallotted Crown lands, although applied for several times.

By Mr. Chapman.] It has been applied for since the war, but also previous to the last Commission's Report appearing. "No. 2"—presently owned by Mr. A. Ivins, who has gone to considerable expense. He is not yet properly established, but has 100 acres under cultivation. He has been there about two years and pays his first instalment next season. The price is 18s. 5d. per acre. "Mimosa Brae"—the main road runs through this farm, which was purchased some 18 months ago by Mr. Harris, of Donnybrook, from the estate of the late Dr. Sutherland. The price was somewhere in the vicinity of £1 per acre. It is used as a stock farm and over 100 head of stock were wintered there last year. "Resolis," owned by the estate of the late Dr. Sutherland, and being used as a stock farm by his son and myself. I am occupying the lower end. There are buildings on this farm. "Bromham Hall" has been bought by Mr. K. A. McKenzie, who has made a road through the farm at considerable expense and is now starting to clear the land. It is his intention to live on the farm. It takes in about 1,500 acres on the top and is an unusually fine farm, having springs and natural dams which never dry up. "Cornwall" is part and parcel of this farm ("Bromham Hall.") "Lots 30-33," presently Crown lands, were not taken into consideration by our committee in view of the fact that they were not shown as coming into the proposed native area. The foregoing remarks apply, as these lots are exceptionally fine agricultural and dairy farms.

By Mr. Evans.] No, there are not many natives on these lots at present. They were mostly ejected for not working. There are a few on the slopes of the Inhlamvini River,

but nothing to speak of. Continuing up the river from the farm "Dillston," there are several farms in this corner which it is proposed to leave pretty well as they are. Some of them are owned and occupied by natives. Now "Mazoe" belongs to Mr. A. C. Kirkman; it is part and parcel of "A." and he uses the two farms in conjunction. His homestead is on the pink part. When he bought this farm the Government made him occupy it. He is living on "Mazoe." "E.P." and "T.P. 53" are inclusive with "Mazoe." "F.P. No. 8" and "High-Over" (a portion), which is part of "S. 35" are all owned by Mr. Arnold. These are on the high veld. Arnold spends part of his time there. He has just purchased "Bartman." (Mr. Fannin hands in a letter of protest from Mr. Arnold—copy attached.) There is a block of Crown lands by the Ngudwini River which should be excluded. "Gracourt" and "Gracourt No. 2" grew 600 bags of mealies and run as one farm, at present occupied by Mr. A. E. Cook(?). There are at present quite 100 head of cattle there, homestead, wattles, and a lot of arable land. It is a good agricultural farm. Running from "Gracourt," it is all high veld; there are very few natives there except in the valleys. "Oaklands," "S. 51," "T.P. 33," "F. P. 57" (all one farm) is well developed, mostly all high veld with no natives. It belongs to Mr. D. M. Comrie, who has been there for the last 30 to 40 years. We ask that special consideration should be given to these farms and the farm "Gracourt 2." They have been occupied many years and are really good farms. It would be an awful pity to bring these into a native area. It is most unusual for us to send a bag of mealies off our farms.

Col. W. ARNOTT.] Proposes an alteration of native area in southern part of division, as shown by pencil line on map. (Description attached). I have known the location for 33 years. I have seen kraals live on it, but never for more than two years. They have been starved out. Three kraals have come on these last 12 months; they have started ploughing, but will never reap a mealie. It is poor soil, but high country. It is not well watered and it is eminently suitable for European occupation. It would be a pity if Mr. Platt's farms "Gartree" and "Zondagh's Kloof" were placed in a native area, because the owner has spent and is spending a lot of money on the places. It is only in the last few years that this country south of the Umkomaas has been discovered. When I came here 35 years ago I was told that no one could farm in the Ixopo district. We think the land at St. Faith's can remain in the native area.

Mr. Fannin.] We think that this land should be retained in the white area as much as possible. We feel in this district more than is necessary is being taken for the natives. It is that view I would like you to record. We have been very liberal in our concessions.

Mr. Hancock.] Included in what is recommended as the European area are a number of native-owned farms. The whole object of this Bill is, as far as ownership is concerned, to bring about a certain amount of segregation; now, as the Government possesses, as far as native areas are concerned, the right to expropriate European lands, I think it is only fair and only right that the Government should exercise that same power in the case of native-owned lands in the European area. Now in this district in several places, right in the middle of a progressive European area you find a little block of native lands forming a little location. They are a nuisance and a source of perpetual disease, beer drinks are frequent, etc. In these cases the Government should, with as little loss of time as possible, remove those natives; expropriate them and provide them with an equal or even greater extent of land in those areas which are laid off as native area.

Mr. G. E. FRANCIS.] I want to endorse Mr. Hancock's remarks. I have a farm and a native has 200 acres of freehold in between my two lots. He is a menace to me in every shape and form. I am spending a lot of money on my farm.

Mr. W. COMRIE, M.P.C.] We feel the locations should be made to do far more before we are asked to give any more land at all. It seems to us if the whole of Natal was handed over to the natives to-morrow in a few years' time they would be starving. Farms adjoining locations never have to send away a single bag of mealies—the whole crop is bought by the natives. What is going to be the position? You are taking a large proportion away which has been producing for the natives and there is no effort to make the native living in the location toe the line and produce more. We hope the Government will endeavour to make them do more. The present locations cannot be taken away from the natives.

Proceedings terminated at 12.30 noon.

Report of Native Evidence taken at Ixopo, Natal, in Court-room during afternoon of 10th February, 1917.

Mr. K. McKenzie, Clerk of Court, interpreted.

Mr. T. E. Chapman made the usual introductory address and the boundaries of the recommended areas were carefully described to the assembly by Mr. McKenzie.

Chief GCOKOTA.] We were under the impression that the Government was going to look after us. I want location lands for my tribe. They have been turned off the

farms. Even to-day the members of my tribe are constantly leaving me, and the result will be I will be left alone.

Chief MANDAHLA.] I have not much to say, because at Port Shepstone, when we were there, we did not agree to this segregation. We asked for locations to be given us and to live alongside Europeans in harmony. That to segregate the natives would cause trouble, but although we were against this the Commission recommended that certain areas be set apart. The lands which have been recommended as native areas are quite inadequate, considering the number of natives here. We are grateful to hear that we shall be able to buy lands in these areas, but we make a request that locations be allotted to us. Extend the lands; let them come high up and not go down to the cliffs and krantzes. I speak more particularly with regard to the Umkomanzi area. We cannot purchase these lands; they are right down in the cliffs and krantzes. Let lands be extended on to the tops.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I meant locations for tribal occupation. I have no land of my own—either private lands or a location. The majority of chiefs in this division have no location.

NTSHIDI (representing Chief DABULAMANZI.] In going into this matter we cannot see far enough. We thank the Government for recommending that we be allowed to purchase lands, seeing that we are at present prevented from doing so. But we are not satisfied with the manner in which this has been tackled. Although Government has said we will be able to purchase lands in these areas, there are no lands to purchase. We do not wish to appear impertinent, but Government is not looking after our interests in the manner it should—we are being thrown down into the stones. We have nothing against the whites, and we would like fair play. In our hearts we think we must smell in the European's nostrils, because we cannot discern in what manner Government is aiding us. It is not treating us in the proper manner; we are continually complaining and coming to the magistrate's office. To-day we say "Very well, we will agree to this," because we see an attempt is being made. Government will say: "The natives have agreed to settle in the abode of the rock-rabbits." If Government wishes to satisfy us and enable our children to live in happiness afterwards, let them recommend areas that will be suitable and not places comprised of kloofs and rocks. We have every respect for Government, but it does nothing for us. We do not see a single white man fighting for us; it is just the native for himself. Government intends to assist us in this matter, and although we work and work for Government we gain nothing by it.

By Mr. Evans.] I am speaking generally of the areas. I know some of the farms personally, others I do not.

By Mr. Chapman.] I live in High Flats district (in Location No. 7). The majority of the lands which have been pointed out are lands which are already owned by natives. Where will the other lands to be purchased come from, seeing that they are already native-owned?

Chief GCOGOTA.] I have nothing to add to what the last speaker has said. I have no location for my tribe. We look to the Government to assist us and I thought we would be given locations.

Chief MAGIDIGIDI.] The lands that I see recommended as native area along the Umkomanzi River are owned and occupied by both natives and Europeans. There is not an available piece of land there a person could go and squat on.

CEBESHANA, representing Chief NTSHIPELA.] The chief asked me to represent him here. What Ntshidi says I endorse. The chief said much the same to me.

TITI, representing Chief MANQASHA.] I endorse what Ntshidi has said.

JAMES MTEMBU.] In these areas that are to be set apart for natives, will a white person be allowed to go and work there? Will a native be allowed to lease land from a white man? From a native area will a native be allowed to go to a European area? Will a native who leases a field or is a tenant on a farm have to pay rent? Will a native be allowed to move stock purchased from Europeans in a European area to a native area? (Mr. Chapman replied to these questions.)

MANDADA.] We were under the impression that all the white people who were in this native area were going to leave it. On some European-owned farms in this area there are some of them that have no natives at all; the natives have been turned off by the Europeans. Of course, different white men have different ways; some we can get on with and some we cannot. Of what benefit is it for the Government to allot us European lands, seeing that Europeans are not to be forced out of the area recommended as a native area?

NKWALI.] I was one of those who went to Port Shepstone to give evidence. We do not agree with finding of the Commission. The white people came to this country when the natives were already here. The blacks are increasing far more rapidly than the whites. The whites have many farms; the blacks have few, and the locations that were allotted years ago by Government have to-day been made smaller. I agree with the Chief Makofini as to this matter being a serious one and needing consideration. We have not discussed it at all sufficiently. Those chiefs who do discuss this matter to-day did so because they did not wish the Government should think they were dissatisfied. Looking at this map with the red area—does the Government think that the natives all over would fit in that country which is marked red? Government, of course, can do as it likes, but the area is not

sufficient for the natives. We are not satisfied at all. At Port Shepstone we are afraid of this. We have always complained and we still complain. Another thing that troubles us very much is the barbed wire fences. We have to go a long way round when we go to the court, and when we come here we are fined because it is said we treat the court with contempt. Seeing we live on farms, we would like the owners of the farms to give us gates which lead to the court.

By Mr. Evans.] I mean locations as made smaller by being sub-divided for the use of other natives. The location (No. 7) I referred to as being smaller than it used to be is so because the farms have encroached thereon.

MADOPOLO.] We have a grievance and have always had them. We have asked to be given ground for ourselves. Government replied to us when we made the request "Very well, we will go to Maritzburg. We will come back again and let you know what has happened." We thought that Government was going to allot these lands to us as locations, but now we hear they are to be purchased by us. Why does Government say "You must buy this land"?

Chief MSKOFINI.] These other people understood what was said to them, but the general complaint is that the locations should be increased. The majority of natives cannot possibly buy land. They have not the means to do so. What we want is to have our locations increased. We want a large location. The other business can only be undertaken by wealthy men. All these natives who are here to-day say they understand what has been said to them, but not one of them does. You know the Umkomanzi Valley—it is all hill-sides and the sun beats down there very hard and kills everything. This is not an area which should be given to the native at all. If Government want to do something, let them do something. I know the whole of the Umkomanzi from the beginning of this area to the end; the whole way down it is krantz and sill-side, infested with monkeys and baboons. I repeat that many natives cannot possibly buy land. What we thought was that Government would give us a big area as location. This land pointed out in hot valleys is of no use; it is only suitable for monkeys and baboons. All these gentlemen who are here know these lands well and that what I say is true, and all those who agree to the finding of the Commission do not know to what they are agreeing. I do not understand it a bit. I am a native and I look to the Government for assistance. A person who is wealthy can please himself, but there are no lands there at all.

NYOKANE.] A European owning a farm won't sell his farm to a native; he will want far more than a native can pay. At what price per acre is this land to be sold? If we natives are segregated the result is we are going to kill each other out. Let us be intermixed with the white people; then we live peacefully. If we are put away to one side in a native area we will quarrel and fight. Let us buy the lands amongst the white people. We know these farms in the proposed native area which belong to Europeans; the latter won't sell them at the same price as Government did, viz. 10s. an acre. One European will want £1 an acre, another 30s. I myself was under the impression that Government was going to give us location lands to-day. We would have been very pleased indeed had we received locations.

Mr. Evans addressed the assembly and proceedings terminated about 4.30 p.m.

Col. W. Arnott's recommendation:—

To exclude from recommended native area, as follows: From the S.E. beacon of "D.Y." (also N. beacon of "A"), thence around the boundaries of following farms which it is recommended shall be excluded from native area: "D.Y.," "E.O.," "E.Q.," "A.H.," "A. of East Stranges," "East Stranges," "A. of D.I.," "Helvetia," and "C.O." to River Umzimkulu. (All land to the west of these farms to be included in native area). Thence along the river boundaries of "C.O.," "D.C." and "Clifton" and the following outside boundaries of following farms also recommended to be included in native area: "C.M.," "A. of A.Z.," "Remainder of A.Z.," along "B.A." round "B.A.," "B.B." and "Sub. B. of 2" to where the S.W. beacon of latter joins Location No. 8, along location line to S.W. boundary of "A.U.," thence round following farms (so as to include them in recommended native area): "20," "19," "15," "16," "C.X.," "C.A.," "Coldplace," "The Ravine," "Ravine," "B.W.," "13 Illogosi," round N. boundaries of "B.W.," "The Ravine," "Coldplace," thence round N. boundaries of "Meadow Lands," "9 Illogosi" and "E.T.," thence along divisional boundary to S.W. corner beacon of location No. 7, thence in a straight line across this location to S.W. corner of "Kunanata Glynn," thus including portion of Location No. 7 in European area.

Copy of Resolutions handed in at Ixopo, Natal, at Meeting on 10th February, 1917.

Resolution passed at meeting of Ixopo Agricultural Society on January 20th, 1917:

(*a*) "That this meeting views with alarm the report of the Commission appointed under the Native Land Act for delimitation of Natal and Zululand, and in particular the

delimitation of this district; and protests against so much land now beneficially occupied by white settlers being placed in the native area.

(*b*) "That the following committee be appointed to collect and give evidence before the Government Committee now appointed: Messrs. C. E. Hancock, J. G. Hackland, J. Anderson, C. C. Foster, J. Marwick, C. E. Freeman, A. V. Allan, H. E. G. Fannin, A. H. Walker and the mover—Col. W. Arnott."

Resolution passed at meeting held by Natives' Land Committee on 10th February, 1917: "That in the opinion of this meeting the minute by Sir William Beaumont dissenting from the delimitation in Natal and Zululand is approved by this meeting, in the hope that Parliament will give its favourable consideration to this minority report as affecting the Province of Natal. Proposed by Mr. John Anderson, seconded by Mr. T. M. Robinson and carried unanimously."

COPY.

Mondi, Dronk Vlei,
February 7th, 1917.

Mr. C. J. Shackell,
Ixopo.

Dear Sir,—I much regret to say that yours of 24th January only just received last evening. It has been all over the country, as you will see by the enclosed envelope. However, I am sorry I cannot come to the Ixopo on account of my health.

Please do kick those Government fellows out. The Kafirs have more attention by the Government than what a white man has, and a sight more land than they can work. Taking the locations on the whole in Natal, there is not one half the land used. As we all know, let the land be poor or rich, the Kafir will only plough one acre at most for a field and make a big jump to some other good patch near to a stream.

Thanking you for yours. Am sorry not to be able to attend.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. W. ARNOLD.

P.S.—Please knock the Government out with their foolish ideas.

COPY.

Spring Vale,
viâ Adderley, Natal,
29 January, 1917.

Dear Sir,—Having duly received and noted contents of your circular of the 24th instant, received this morning, I beg to assure your society that as far as I am concerned and as owner of one of the demarcated native area farms, viz. "Diamond," about 1,800 acres, I strongly object to any European owned and worked farms being set aside for such a purpose as intended by the Native Lands Commissioners.

Every available piece of land will be required for our disbanded soldiers and sailors, and if your special Committee care to make use of me as a guide to show either them or the new Commissioners, viz. Messrs. Chapman and Evans, the extent of available ground in this corner of the division of Ixopo, which could well be spared to be set aside for native area without interfering with either the vested rights or wishes of the present generation or of endangering the welfare of a possible future European population, I shall be pleased to hold myself at their disposal.

Time is short and a personal inspection should be made previous to the visit of Messrs. Chapman and Evans at Ixopo from the 6th to the 10 proximo.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

E. H. GARLAND.

COPY.

Hancock Grange,
Ixopo Division, Natal,
10th February, 1917.

The Commission re Native Land Area.

Most respected Sirs,—I very much regret not meeting you at Ixopo on your late visit there, to hear questions on Natives Land Act. Hearing you have included "Hancock Grange" farm within the area, I wish to bring to your notice that I have already sold to

natives 900 acres abutting on Government Crown Lands, shown on the diagram as Block E, which they have made freehold. As the remaining portion of "Hancock Grange" farm has possibilities which can never be worked out by natives, as well as Government holding rights re railway station—Madonela, Union and Ngwala Bridges, large commodious buildings, water for milling and irrigation, which all taken into consideration, let me ask most respectfully that you will please allow me to suggest that the line defining the limit boundary by the wire fence between "Hancock Grange" and the Block E, now occupied by them in their legitimate rights. By doing so it can make no difference to the natives, as they already are annexed to the Crown Lands and "Hancock Grange" left out, as, beyond it, there is nothing to hamper it. In the near future, from a commercial point of view, this farm will add very much to the future interest of the two provinces.

I regret that I did not see you when passing, as five minutes' conversation would have given you a clear view of the situation.

Believe me, most respected Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JONATHAN WEBB,
Proprietor of "Hancock Grange."

COPY.

Hancock Grange, Ixopo Division,
9th February, 1917.

The Native Land Commission now sitting at Ixopo.

Having learnt that "Hancock Grange" farm has been enclosed in the Native Land area, allow me please humbly to ask that the limit be not included in my farm, for reasons as follows:

1. Already I have sold 800 acres to natives off this farm, which has been registered in their name and by them made freehold.
2. The remaining portion, having possibilities, only to be utilised by expert farmers in dairy and agricultural pursuits.
3. Water can be made to run any milling work, having a fall of 100 feet, and irrigation for hundreds of acres. A water-mill already does work for home purposes.
4. Several good homestead buildings and orchards, with plantations, are used.
5. Government has large rights, both with railway terminus and Government Union Bridge and Nagala Bridge and Road.

Seeing that the natives have already been served with a large piece, which has become their legitimate right, the remainder being reserved for future progressive prospects, which natives *never* can accomplish, I humbly beg the Commission to re-consider the limit boundary, leaving mine independent and making the natives line as the limit.

Your humble servant,

(Signed) JONATHAN WEBB,
Proprietor of "Hancock Grange,"

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Office, Bulwer, Natal, on 12th February, 1917, during forenoon.

Mr. JAMES COMRIE.] There are only two pieces in the Ixopo Division, of which you know, in regard to which any complaint can be made. No exception can be taken to the four small farms F.P. 388, etc.

Mr. ROBERT COMRIE.] I think myself, as far as the Polela Division is concerned, that there is no necessity for any lands to be taken from the Europeans in this division. The Kafirs have got in their locations more land than ever they want. When the Commission came round to Donnybrook I spoke about it then and my opinion was that the Kafirs had far more than they wanted. The Kafirs are just abusing land; they are not making use of it at all. They have big blocks of land which they scrape and spoil, and when they are worn out they say: "We have no land." Supposing Europeans did that; where would we be? We would go to the wall altogether. Why should not natives do the same as Europeans, and fertilize? I believe Mr. Clark would tell you the same as I do: that there are 8,000 acres of location and 1,300 inhabitants, including children, but because the lands are worn out they make no use of them. I do not know if you have anything to say in connection with native locations; in the big location across the Mahaqwa to the border there is any amount of land for Kafirs if they would only use land as they should do. I was under the impression Government was going to appoint

a man to see Kafirs did use the land as they should do. These lands in Polela Division, we need not bother about them at all; it is principally Kafir land that is there, but if they are going to take those lands do you think they would allow lands to be swapped with the Kafirs and give us blocks of land such as the country around Sylvia, which is a big location and no use being made of it? I think myself if they are going to take ground these Umkomaas lands would suit the Kafirs very well. These are magnificent agricultural lands, and I think it is a good place to put Kafirs now their stock are wiped out. There are big blocks of land in the Mahaqwa Location which might carry a large European population. These tops do not suit natives; the land is too poor, and with their method of cultivation it is impossible for them to live on them.

(*Mr. Chapman* explained that the scope of the Committee's work did not actually include the scheduled areas.)

Mr. Comrie (continuing).] I think it is a pity that it does not. We have big blocks of land here that the Kafirs are not occupying. They are no use to them. I do not know the Berg lands well. Wherever you see a big block of land in Polela Division without a farm on it, it is no use for anybody.

Mr. A. J. CRUTE, J.P.] On behalf of the Ulabeni Farmers' Association and district, I am instructed to offer a protest against the discussion of so contentious a measure at such a critical time in the history of the Empire. As regards the proposed alterations in the division—those lands coloured pink—I have no objection to raise, but as I understand from the terms of reference to the Committee they can, if they so think, recommend other lands. I should like to ask if there is any intention to do so as regards the district of Polela? There are none which I would like to see included, but I would like to ask the Committee if they have any in view.

(*Mr. Evans* explained the Committee's duties in this regard and the impracticability of going beyond scheduled areas with the limited time at their disposal.)

Mr. Crute.] Then I take it, Sir, that the Committee will not recommend any other land in the Polela Division.

Mr. Evans.] Not unless we get information from you who live in the Division which leads us to think that such is desirable.

Mr. Crute.] Speaking generally, I desire to endorse all that Mr. Comrie has said with reference to the present native locations within the division. Speaking from personal knowledge of something like 20 years' residence here, I can say that the best parts of the division have been parcelled out to the natives. That land has not been beneficially worked by them. My idea has been that Government supervision should be established in the location and the land turned to proper account. If it is necessary, natives should be taught the art of farming and fertilisers should be used. If the native even has to pay for it he will reap the benefit eventually. That it can be done is proved by the fact that dipping is enforced in the locations, for which the native is paying. So it will be in the case of the lands. You see some of the most glorious land in Natal—lands that are capable of growing with proper attention up to 15 muids of mealies per acre, but, as Mr. Comrie says, it is not cultivation which is carried on; it is merely scraping. If to-day we hand over this asset of the Colony to the natives, I ask you how long will it be—provided the same principles are carried out in the mode of cultivation—before they require another dose? Will it be 10 years or will it be 15 years? I think myself the whole question could have been met before tackling it in this manner (mind you, it is the easy road); they should have taken the locations in hand and they would have had satisfactory results. There is another point, and that is in regard to these Berg lands. If they are handed over to the Kafir it will be a source of trouble to the adjoining European farmers. It is impossible upon these lands for any native to grow sufficient crops for a living, and if they live there they are going to live upon the European farmers surrounding them.

Mr. G. S. STAFFORD, J.P.] Mr. Comrie and Mr. Crute have practically covered all the ground, but I would like to correct a misunderstanding with regard to the Berg Crown lands. At the present time there is no leasing and no selling done. There are quite a number of farms in the Berg which could be made use of for winter grazing. At the present time I know of several applications which have been put in some years back and these men are still waiting for a definite reply in regard to the lease of these lands. There is another objection, viz.: a little location which wedges in between the European area of East Griqualand, adjoining the Telemu Location, known as Umkele's Location. This little location runs up into a wedge between two European areas and takes in the only poort of entry and the main wagon road joining the two districts. At the present time it is an infected area with East Coast fever, and transport difficulties have been tremendous. There is a great deal of trading and one thing and another going on between the two Provinces. I understand by the report of the former Commission that Umkele's location is included in the European area, but to come in when the natives go out voluntarily.

By Mr. Chapman.] As to the Berg lands: yes, people only make application for winter grazing. I think it is to a certain extent suitable for native occupation in the valleys and ravines and river lands. Where there is really good land they only need a limited quantity.

Mr. T. E. BLOY.] "Half-my-Right" still belongs to Bloy. It is leased at the present moment to Mr. Mingay. There is no store there, but there is one on the adjoining farm "Long Elmsell." That land was a Government grant originally and the location was made afterwards. I was only a kiddie when we lived on that farm—now over fifty years. The farms are fenced. It is a very good agricultural district and comes right on to the tops, so it makes a clinking good farm. It makes that land absolutely valueless if the surrounding land is handed to Kafirs, because then it must be leased to natives and not to Europeans. Is the Government going to give these people good land simply to destroy? Why can't the Kafirs be turned off that location and have it for Europeans? It is very suitable for whites.

Mr. A. R. C. BLOY.] When these lands are brought into native areas they become absolutely valueless. The value will depreciate enormously. We are the actual owners of the whole block.

Mr. H. C. GOLD.] As representating the Underberg Farmers' Association, I am instructed to protest against any more land being given to natives. To-day the natives do not cultivate to speak of; they spoil the land, and are relying entirely upon buying from Europeans. So we are of opinion that the Government should first of all take into consideration the educating of the natives to make better use of the land they have to-day, and if more land is to be handed to natives there are parts which are not fit for Europeans. I do not want to mention them—I leave it to you, gentlemen, to know them. There are instances in which some European farms are practically cut in two. Well, we feel that is altogether unjust and would entail a great hardship. We would ask you gentlemen to do your best—a farm should be entirely cut out or else entirely in.

Mr. R. W. COMRIE gave evidence with regard to his farm Lot 1A between Locations Nos. 2 and 4. He stated it is 500 acres in extent and is occupied in conjunction with the farm "Donnybrook." No buildings; used for grazing. Cost 10s., 30 years since. Fenced and paddocked.

Mr. W. WILKINSON.] These gentlemen have said very much what I was going to say. I am strongly against any more land being given to the natives. We consider they ruin the country as it is and that by giving them more land you are simply shelving the question. If they improved what they have already and by that prove that they deserve more land—well and good, but as far as I can see they are going to have more land and the same thing will happen again. Then you will never get the natives off, because you must have labour. I think seeing that these lands were farms before locations that they should remain as farms.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the owners (Bloys) of the piece I lease protest against inclusion.

Mr. R. C. STONE (representing the Underberg Farmers' Association) concurs in the remarks of previous speakers and states it is felt that the only people who will live on these farms (Berglands) will be those that will steal.

Mr. Gold.] We suffered severely from natives living there years ago who stole our stock. We approached the Government and asked for them to be shifted and then we lived at peace. We are here to protest against the giving out of big areas to natives; we feel it is simply encouraging them to go further back.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think a man could exist on the Crown lands near the Berg unless he had two farms—one in the Berg and one elsewhere. I do not consider a fair population of natives could live on these farms. If they lived there they will only live on what they can steal. There are only suitable for early spring grazing and winter grazing.

Mr. G. WALTON, representing the Donnybrook Farmers' Association, with Mr. H. C. Gold, concurred in that gentleman's views and also emphasised the hardship entailed by dividing farms, *i.e.* the demarcation of one portion in a white area and the remainder in a native area, giving instances (already noted) in the Ixopo division. He stated that had an exchange of location lands adjacent to railway lines been contemplated the position would have been different.

Report of Meeting with Natives (following on above).

Chief MJILA.] We had no idea that the land was being divided up. We had nothing to say; we do not thank the Government. We would like an opportunity of airing our views when the demarcation is fixed (it is pointed out that this is the last opportunity). I would like the native locations made larger.

Chief DHLIDHLI.] I want to know why the Government is dividing up and separating the whites from the blacks. I am quite satisfied and contented with my present lot.

Chief SIBHAMU.] I want a location assigned to me in the proposed area. I am poor and in great need of land for myself and my tribe. (This man lives on Crown lands on the Berg in the Southern part.)

Chief TENDE.] I do not like the idea of being separated from the white man. I would be glad if my location could be enlarged.

Chief MAFAHLA.] They all have their grievances as regards locations. I have farms in the middle of my location which make it smaller.

Chief MBANGO (Location No. 2).] I have also the same complaint. I would like my location made larger, *i.e.* extended into lands which are now owned by Europeans.

Chief NTSHIPELA (Location No. 4), repeats the same request.

DAVID MOLIFE (Basuto on private lands).] I would like matters to remain undisturbed as they are now—when one can buy and sell and each has equal opportunities. I would like a small piece of ground on the high veld where my horses could remain and be safe from sickness.

Chief MAKHWUGANA.] I am on private lands, and my tribe is also. I am troubled because my people are ejected from the farms and become scattered. I would like to be given a location.

Chief MAKUZWANA] I would like my location made larger. My natives on the farms are always leaving.

Chief POSELA.] My location is not in this division, but in the Harding district. I live on private lands in this Division with all my natives. This is the district I like as I grew up here. I would like some land in this division where I am accustomed to live in exchange for my location in Harding district. My father had private property adjoining location in Harding Division, and I am willing to exchange this also for land in this division.

Mr. Evans replied at length to the Assembly, pointing out that some of the points raised were purely administrative ones, and dealing fully with those questions not falling within this category.

Report of Evidence taken at Loteni, Natal, at residence of Mrs. Carter, on 13th February, 1917, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address.

Mr. E. B. MORRELL (Secretary, Loteni and Inzinga Farmers' Association).] We have not elected delegates to represent the association. At a meeting at which our member, Mr. Moor, was present, the following resolution was passed: "It be a recommendation from this association to Mr. Moor that when this matter is brought before Parliament he oppose the inclusion of this district in the native area. Should he fail in accomplishing this that he press for the land to be expropriated on the basis of liberal valuation without delay. We strongly support Sir W. Beaumont's Minority Report as regards this area." (Passed August 19th, 1916.)

Mr. ALEX. STONE (President of above Association).] I will state the case from my point of view. Now this district, or practically the whole that was cut off, is grazing land and most unsuitable for natives. Only about 1 per cent. is arable, and grazing ground is useless to natives; they must have arable land. This district is producing a very fair average of wool per farm. I think it would compare as far as wool is concerned with some of the best districts in Natal and in quantity and quality. People have come to this district—many of them 20 years ago—with the idea of making their homes. They have built themselves comfortable houses and settled down—and are they to be handed over to the natives? What good would they be to them? Another point I would like to emphasise is the hardships entailed by these lands being handed over to natives. If the Government came over to us with a clear-cut policy, saying "We are going to pay you so much for your land and improvements" we would have something to work on, but they say "You must sell your land to a native." The native who will buy land does not exist in this district. Take my own case—"Malungana"; a native would not live on it if you gave it to him. It is useless to him, but of considerable use to me. I bought it to make my valley land of more use to me. Should the Government take over one part of a farm I maintain they should take the lot. Pay the owner out the day they want it at a fair valuation. In this district there has been no agitation by the natives themselves for more land. They would like this grazing land for nothing, but they are not prepared to buy it. There is no agitation on their part; this grazing land is useless to them.

By Mr. Chapman.] Would they live on it if they could buy it cheaply?

Mr. Stone.] Most decidedly not; they could not live on it. They have got the land to-day they are ever likely to require, viz. those little scraps which are on the river. As it is there is scarcely a native on any of these high lands. The few native tenants on my place I have to supply with mealies; they do not grow any. We use these farms generally for grazing sheep, cattle and horses. Sheep do splendidly. At the present time I have a flock of 2,000 sheep on my farm, *i.e.* on the whole of my property. Farmers in this district are getting on their feet. They are beginnig to buy decent bulls. Farming is just

becoming farming here, and now we have this cloud over us, meaning that we cannot improve properties, and 20 years' work in some instances is going to be thrown away. I am quite positive natives would not buy land outside the river valleys even if they had the opportunity.

Mr. H. BOIK.] The native came here about 30 years ago and bought these little scraps of land in the valleys until the Europeans came in and bought up what were left. If they wanted to buy these top lands they had the opportunity in the early days, so it is proved they don't want the land. It is not suitable for them.

By Mr. Evans.] I took the census of these farms about 4 years ago, and some of these little farms of two and three hundred acres have 70 to 100 inhabitants on them. They are as full as they can be with natives, in fact the natives have not been able to grow sufficient food to supply their families. A good many are Basutos. As a rule, they cultivate better than the Zulu. Yes, it would disturb a good many people if they were thrown into a European area. I suppose there must be over 2,000 inhabitants—natives and Basutos—living on these little farms. They have lived there for these last 30 years. Basutos take ordinary natives as tenants and charge them rent—anything from 30s. upwards per hut.

Mr. C. J. LAURENS.] In the event of the white people being shovelled off from this area, the carrying capacity as regards natives would not be increased one iota. It would mean a depreciation of 75 per cent., or 15s. in the £, in my banking account. We have been working for 20 years, and it means serious depreciation if we come within the native area. It is reducing what we are worth to-day by 75 per cent. We can never sell to a native. It is ridiculous. If such a law was made in Downing Street we could understand it, but coming from the Union we cannot. If it came from Downing Street I should be a rebel to-morrow. If, on the other hand, they were going to compensate, that is quite a different aspect. I have spent the best part of my life here absolutely, and it is reducing my property 75 per cent.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have three small pieces, really one farm—4,700 acres altogether ("Broadview," "Windwood" and "Glenora"). It is all hill-tops. Natives had the arable lands in the Loteni before I came there. Natives could not live on the high lands. You stick in a plough and the wind and weather blows the soil away. Mr. P. Laurens ploughed a nice piece of 50 acres, and the soil was blown away for a depth of 6 inches. Great boulders are now exposed through the wind and weather.

By Mr. Evans.] There are very few native tenants on European farms. A few have one or two kraals as labour tenants only. It is difficult to find sufficient land for them to plant. They always have to buy. Labour tenants generally have to work six months in the year for 10s. a month, after that we pay them £1 a month.

Mr. Stone.] I have four natives residing on my farm, but they are in continuous service. They cultivate nothing. I supply them with their food and pay them £1 a month. They have their wives and families there, but they cultivate nothing.

Mr. Laurens.] We had the second pick of the land; therefore we have no land to take on tenants. The eyes of the country were picked out. If these little bits were attached to our farms we could still have natives and they would be of service to the farmers, who now have no opportunity of keeping native tenants. I draw my labour from Mid-Illovo, from the location principally. I advance as many as ten head of cattle and they work it off. We are not big labour employers, in fact you would not find half a dozen natives on most farms. We employ day labour also, which comes from the river valleys. A good deal of the labour goes out of the district—to Mooi River and Johannesburg. I was one of the first to get here, and I have some arable land, which had not then been taken by the natives. They have purchased lands on the top, and it has reverted to Government.

Mr. J. W. McLEAN.] Yes, I bought a piece which was originally surveyed for natives, and my brother has bought two pieces. None of those who took up top land hold it to-day.

Mr. Worrell.] I should like to say I consider Mr. Boik's figures are rather generous as regards the native population. I question if there are 2,000, but in any case these natives are Kafir-farming: they are not farming stock. We consider this is the cause of a lot of stock thieving. The native farms are absolutely crowded. I have been selling mealies, and I have dozens of natives come begging for credit. I say: "Why don't you work?" and they don't answer that question. They don't seem to go away and work. There is a good bit of stock thieving going on in the district, in fact jackals and thieving are keeping the sheep industry back, but we can tackle the jackals. There should be a big expansion in the future for the sheep industry, for farmers are only just getting on their feet, and during the next few years the flocks should be increased largely. In every case since I came here 10 years ago Europeans have been the purchasers of native farms. Now if a native wanted any of the grazing land he could not do anything on less than 1,000 acres. Now, there is a homestead probably valued at £400 or more on most of these farms, and we have no natives here who would buy such a homestead; they have no use for it. We consider if this is a native area the natives cannot buy land: they never will buy it; it will simply prevent us from selling. We do get Europeans in search of farms, but we should never sell a farm to a native.

Now in the early days the scheme was they would come along and buy 300 acres and get the use of 3,000 acres of the grazing land adjoining; that is the only way they can get grazing land. They cannot possibly afford to pay for it.

Mr. Boik.] You will find the Berg to-day packed with horses. Natives from all over the district send their horses up there, because they can get the grazing free.

Mr. Morrell.] Sir William Beaumont recommended this as a European area. One of the most serious aspects from our standpoint is we are perfectly satisfied we will never get a native purchaser. That discourages the effecting of improvements. Most of us have not long taken the allotments over and have not completed the improvements by any means, and they are very necessary, but we are discouraged from spending money in further improvements if we think the only purchaser we have got is a native at the end of 20 years or any other time.

Mr. Stone.] Of course, every farmer looks upon his farm as an asset, and he does not wish it to be restricted to the purchasing power of a native.

Mr. Morrell (By Mr. Evans).] No, I do not keep a store. I bought the mealies from Nottingham Road for the purpose of selling to natives. A European here cannot do much good with less than three or four thousand acres. My experience has been that a native's idea is to get a little arable land in the bottom and pack it up with native tenants. In that case they would want 1,000 acres for grazing and you generally find their stock die off in spring. I do not think you could do much grazing on under 1,000 acres. If you graze on one portion all the year round it very soon gets tramped out and perishes. The value of a farm is at least doubled by the amount of money spent on it by improvements, etc.—buildings, fencing, and so on. There is no undertaking that the Government will expropriate at a value.

Mr. Stone.] In this area the value of improvements would be less than in a mixed farming area. I do not think you quite see our point of view on this. You say that if we cannot find a native buyer we may sell to the Government, but the Government will say "We do not want your land; it is no use to us!" Suppose we offer it to the Minister for Native Affairs he would say "This land is useless to me; the natives cannot use it." He would then give us permission to sell it to a white man, but a white man would say "No, I don't want it. I am going to buy in a European area—not in a native one." If our land was valuable to natives they would recognise it as such, but our market is being taken away. Yes, the value of land in a pastoral district is governed by what the land will carry and produce in wool, etc. There was a prospective buyer in this district a short time ago looking at the farm "Pains Acre," but as soon as he heard it was in a native area he went away. Some of these farms are freehold, but the majority are not paid off under the 20 years instalment system.

Mrs. T. Carter.] I would like to speak about the injustice suffered if the winter grazing, hay lands and what little arable land there is taken away. This farm "M.G. 5" is in the snow line and if we have a big snowstorm the snow lies often from 10 days to a fortnight and our stock go down to the lower part, where it is warmer, "S.H. 1" and "Fair View," and without which it would make this farm practically useless to me or to a prospective buyer, because it is only a summer run and in the winter time everything would have to go away. Considering the restrictions we have it is not always easy to move your cattle owing to East Coast Fever.

By Mr. Chapman.] It would affect us with regard to selling afterwards. No one would buy this farm without the lower part. A man would not like to buy one part and have the natives up against it. The two portions run together. If the natives were right in contact with one they might be over-running your place without your knowledge. (Mrs. Carter and Mr. Boik also touched upon the mineral deposits in the district and possibilities of a better railway service in the future.)

Mr. Stone.] Refers to the fact that in many instances separate farms contiguous to one another are farmed as one lot and regarded as one property only.

A Committee, consisting of Messrs. Stone, McLean and Morrell, was formed to advise as to the actual European occupation of farms in the district.

Mr. Stone proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee, and proceedings terminated at 12.30 noon.

Report of Evidence taken at Impendhle, Natal, on 15th February, 1917, during the forenoon.

European witnesses were heard in the Agricultural Hall.

Native witnesses were heard in the Court-house grounds, Mr. W. H. Attlee interpreting.

After the usual explanatory address it was decided to take native evidence first.

ALBERT MOLIFE.] I wish to state that the recommended area is very broken indeed; it is nothing but krantzes and stones. I do not see how any larger population of natives could be accommodated there. The country is unsuitable, because we wish agricultural ground and it is now used by the Europeans exclusively for stock.

By Mr. Chapman.] Natives of similar standing to myself might be agreeable to hire land for grazing; some might buy portions. I have two native kraals on my farm; the natives work in lieu of rent. My farms are 1,000 acres and 177 acres in extent, respectively. I cultivate a portion of the smaller farm. I run merino sheep, goats, cattle and horses. I have 400 sheep, which do very well. I can drive them on to high land, if necessary. Occasionally, I get a little horse-sickness. I do not hire grazing land, nor do I send my stock to the Berg. We reside in the valleys, to which we came before the Europeans. There are no natives on the top lands.

By Mr. Evans.] I do not think natives would go on the top lands if they had the chance to buy there. There is no ground to grow crops. Natives would be afraid of the cold in winter; moreover they cannot shed their stock in the winter. The natives have no money. I myself could buy a piece on the top. I have been here about 20 years now. Perhaps I am more industrious than the others that I am able to buy land. I work—plough and keep stock.

DINANA (a native).] There is a company of us on the little farm "The Glen," in the Loteni Valley. We do not take native tenants. We grow crops, but we have not sufficient land for grazing our stock. Our complaint is that all the land there is taken up by the Europeans and we have no grazing area. We could not keep up our instalments on the first lot of land we bought and it reverted. We could not buy land on the top; we have no money. We are children of the Government and would like land given to us.

Chief MAFAHLENI.] I know my location well. It could not carry a larger population than at present—there is not sufficient arable land, all such land being in the hollows. The tops are good for grazing. We have endeavoured to cultivate some of the open land, but it is very poor. This year we shall reap a record crop because we have had rain.

By Mr. Chapman.] We do not use manure or fertilize.

Induna LUNGALELE.] We have nothing to add. Albert Molife has spoken for us all.

Report of Meeting with Europeans at Impendhle.

Mr. H. I. WILKINSON states that he owns and occupies a farm in Polela division (marked on map as A, B, C, D), recently purchased from Stephen Mini. This farm is erroneously shown on map as being native-owned and occupied.

Mr. T. FLEMING reads the resoluton formulated and passed unanimously at a recent public meeting, as follows:

That this public meeting of land-owners and other interested residents in Impendhle division is not in favour of the recommendations of the Native Land Commission. It is of opinion that the native locations and lands held privately by natives are quite sufficient to meet the needs of the natives, especially as a large proportion will continue to live as farm servants on lands owned by Europeans. That the additional lands proposed to be set apart for native occupation in Impendhle division are much more suited for European occupation. That the location contains land above the average for cultivation, but the occupants do not grow enough to support themselves and yearly buy maize from Europeans. That the time has arrived that some conditions of beneficial occupation should be imposed on natives living rent free within locations, otherwise it will eventually be found that the whole of this province will be required as a native reserve. Some change must be made in the present wasteful methods of treating the land. That should it be decided to set aside additional lands in Natal as reserves, farms owned therein by Europeans who wish to remove should be taken over by the Government at a fair valuation.

Mr. Fleming (continuing).] That was passed unanimously at the meeting and we were of opinion that the native locations and land held privately by natives were sufficient to meet the needs of the natives, because of their tremendously wasteful methods of cultivation at present. Under proper management this location would carry an enormous number of natives, very many more than there are to-day. A Kafir cultivates land towards the river—really excellent land well suited for small farms for whites. The land is simply wasted. They get what they can and then scratch elsewhere. It is very clear that these lands are not suited for natives: they are magnificent stock and dairy farms, and I do not see how a large number of natives can live on them. The lands further away are well suited for ranching, but not suitable for natives. They cannot get a living out of the soil under their methods; they require too much land for each individual kraal. Now, I would like to talk about the Zwartkop Location. Look at the number of natives on that! It is capable of carrying a very large number of natives if they go in for farming properly. There has been no effort made to improve the farming methods of natives in locations in Natal, as far as I can see. They are getting privileges which are worth something and they should on their part be bound to do something for those privileges. Now, gentlemen, as regards the last paragraph—concerning compensation. I am quite certain that if this were carried out it would cut the ground from under the feet of many farmers who are now

objecting, but the point is that the Government is *not* bound to. If they were bound to you would remove the opposition from many farmers, and rightly so. A man has improved his farm and if it is to benefit a section of the native population it is only right that the Government compensate that man for the sacrifices he is making. I saw Sir Thomas Watt in a letter to the Dundee farmers said that he could not see where the European would suffer. The thing to my mind is absolutely absurd; if a man is situated in the middle of one of these native areas and cannot sell to a native; offers it to the Government and the Government say "We don't want your farm," he is then at liberty to sell it to another European. I would like to ask you if another European is going to give a fair value for that land. No, that land is under restrictions and it will be of very little use, because he cannot sell to anyone but a native. I think that particular part of the deal is exceedingly unfair and I think if that were removed a great deal of the opposition would go. I would like to say that I recognise this as an attempt to do something good for the natives, as well as the Europeans, but I do think it is not a fair thing for the Europeans and in some cases not a fair thing for the natives.

By Mr. Evans.] You can find spots—little portions—in the recommended area which are suitable for natives, but the eyes of the country had been picked out by certain surveyors and sold to natives in small lots. I am speaking of the whole area. There are portions suitable for natives in the valleys, but the Europeans also require lowlands for successful farming. Therefore I say that the whole area is more suitable for Europeans than for native occupation.

Mr. D. TOOTELL.] The position is correctly stated. There is a very small portion which can be cultivated. If you are going to put a lot of Kafirs there, where are they going to grow their crops? There is not a large amount of land which natives could cultivate, whereas white men can and with the aid of fertilisers get good crops in some parts of the valleys. There is not a large stretch of arable land in the area. The occupants of the uplands require these lands to grow their winter crops. It is a stock district; it is not an agricultural district.

Dr. HENSON.] I think enough point has not been made of one remark which Mr. Fleming made and that was that the whole of this particular area was not suitable for natives because it could not, considering its size, settle enough upon it. It would be impossible to transport any big number of natives there at all, and that is the essential point and what the Agricultural Society had in mind when they got this gentleman to express their views. It is so unsuitable that it would be undesirable to alter the present conditions.

Mr. J. W. FLY.] The native is a very extravagant person. He tries to grow a few mealies in the valleys, but he won't grow food for his stock. I think that part of the district is purely for ranching and stock farming. It would be impossible for natives to live there. I am speaking of the top lands, with which I am fairly familiar. I know the country and what it can produce.

Mr. F. G. PALMER.] The natives since I have been here, for the last 30 years, are growing less and less. They do not trouble to cultivate. They have to buy, and they go to work. If you give them more land it will be the same. This upland—the large piece in the location—as you know, the natives use for grazing stock.

Dr. Henson.] Natal, I believe, consists of about twelve million acres, and you propose to allocate nearly half of this fertile, beautiful country to natives. That is a point which should be made.

Mr. B. LAURENS.] We acknowledge that the valleys are already owned by natives, but we are thinking of what it would be if it fell to Europeans. I think that is the cause of the error in a good many remarks which have been made.

Mr. C. W. ROBERTS, after some enquiry regarding his own farm which is situated within the Impendhle Location, states: I consider that in the Impendhle Location, on the other side of the mountain, there is not better land in the Colony. You cannot, certainly, cultivate that land year after year without fertilizer, but I have some of the same class of ground and it produces very good crops. The Kafir sends little girls to do ploughing while he drinks "utshwala." There is a little boy under my trap there who has done all the ploughing for his kraal this year. The land is quite good. On new land after the second year you would get very good crops for about two to four years. It is excellent potato land.

Mr. C. A. SPEIRS.] It is my contention and that of the others that the amount of land to be handed over in Natal is altogether too large. I think it is out of all proportion, having regard to the other parts of the Union. We are going to be a native location here to supply the rest of the Union with labour. I think it is a crying shame that the land should be handed over to natives. Why not wipe the location out altogether?

Mr. Fleming.] With regard to the farms now occupied by natives: I do not think that there is any feeling amongst the Europeans that they want to deprive them of those lands at all. That has never been thought of.

By Mr. Chapman.] Speaking for myself, I should be exceedingly glad to exchange some of my land for it. It is some of the best land in this Division. I say this: natives

have made that land poorer, but it is capable of very great improvement and I think it is eminently suitable for settlement. I went further than that, gentlemen: I said that if it could be so, it would settle the question of the railway coming into this division.

Report of Evidence taken at Mooi River (in Argyll Hall), during afternoon of 19th February, 1917.

The usual explanatory addresses were made by Messrs. Chapman and Evans, who also offered explanations and apologies for being unable to hold the meeting during the forenoon, as arranged. After answering various questions regarding the provisions of the draft Act of 1917, evidence, of which the following is an epitome, was heard:

Mr. A. HENDERSON.] I, with six other delegates, am here as representing the Mooi River Farmers' Association, to meet you to-day and support the resolution passed at Estcourt on Saturday last. Most of us attended that meeting and I am going to ask Mr. Richards to read that resolution, which conveys the sentiment of our association.

Mr. G. RICHARDS read resolution as follows: "That this meeting resolves emphatically to protest against the passing during the lifetime of the present Parliament of any legislation based upon the report submitted by the Native Lands Commission. That in the meantime a short Act shall be immediately passed giving release and complete freedom of action to the owners of all such lands as have been indicated by the Commission for inclusion in a native area. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Member for the county for conveyance to the Prime Minister, and the member be requested to take such action as will best give effect to the resolution." This resolution was passed by a meeting held at Estcourt on Saturday—one of the most representative meetings we have ever had, people from every portion of the county being present. We are here as delegates appointed at that meeting to support that resolution, which was carried unanimously. Well, Sir, it was very clearly indicated to us what was the scope of your order of reference, and if we read that correctly the line that we are here to advocate we think is entirely within your power to give effect to. I presume we are perfectly correct in saying that it is within your power to recommend that all the lands which have been included in Natal should be excluded. The line that we take, Sir, is that although the farmers of this county and particularly as represented at the meeting on Saturday, are in favour of segregation, they feel that segregation in Natal has gone far enough; that there has been no outcry on the part of the natives to any large extent for further land, and that there has been no great agitation on the part of the natives for land which they can purchase in individual title. We feel that—even if there was a really strong feeling among a certain section of the natives of Natal that they would like to become freehold owners of their land—you have already in Natal ample lands marked off for experimental purposes, and by the time you have exhausted these mission reserves it would perhaps be a generation or two ahead before you require further Crown Lands in Natal to be set apart for native purposes. No man can say, who has any experience in Natal or Zululand of the holding or occupation of lands by natives, that that land is beneficially occupied. It may be in one or two instances, which are quite notorious—I should say outstanding illustrations—but practically all the lands held by natives are to a large extent wasted and not occupied in a beneficial manner. They have not increased in value, nor are they improved. The native essentially clings to the old communal principle, whereas this Bill will prevent him from ever becoming the owner of farms in community. So far as Natal is concerned we feel we were never in a more critical position than we are to-day; that if the native is to benefit and be improved he will not be benefited or improved by training him up to think he is to be a landed gentleman. His improvement rather lies in the way of industries and labour, and that will best be secured by introducing as many whites and increasing the white population as much as we can. If this Bill goes through it sets for all time a full-stop to any increase in the population of Natal as far as the present unoccupied lands are concerned. You, Mr. Evans, have said that some of the lands which you have inspected are not fit for Europeans and I gather from that that you mean that no hardship is done to the white community if these lands are taken out and set aside for occupation and purchased by natives. You are not the first man who has said that, Sir. If you go back over the history of Natal you will find that every Commission has condemned portions as absolutely useless, and within the process of less than half a lifetime that land has turned out to be some of the most valuable land in the country. I have only lived in Natal 51 years, but it has been long enough to see these changes take place.

Mr. Richards related how an early Commission had condemned Mooi River district as being absolutely uninhabitable so far as white population was concerned and that the transport-riders of those days hurried through, regarding the locality as useless. Referred also to Zululand Lands Delimitation Commission and the present sugar areas, then regarded as useless, but from which a young acquaintance of his drew £4,000 for sugar cane last year—after six or seven years' residence. Maintains that any present estimate of unsuit-

ability of land may be entirely reversed by future progress, as—for example—Umvoti County before the advent of the wattle. I don't think you should ever mark out any ground in Natal simply because you think it is going to be useless territory. Take the "thorns," which particularly concern us; to-day it is only a temporary disability under which we suffer, owing to East Coast Fever. We are not able to make use of them, but East Coast Fever will eventually be completely defeated. The moment we can get back to these "thorn" farms without danger the meat export trade will go upwards by leaps and bounds, because to-day we are producing our meat at a tremendous cost of labour on our highveld farms. Yet this "thorn" land is to be placed out of court. Touching upon the expropriation clause of the draft Bill, Mr. Richards said expropriation might be welcomed by owners of certain useless properties, but the feeling is that Government would not take over land except under very exceptional circumstances and that it would be hopeless to look for a European purchaser outside of a mental hospital, having in view all these disabilities. Mr. Richards referred to the question of bonds and asked if anyone would lend money on a farm falling within a native area. He stated the position in the Transkei was entirely different—how the present occupants were driven out of the Cape across the Kei River and settled in their present habitat, regarded at that time as the "back of beyond" everywhere, but which turned out to be some of the finest country in South Africa. We look upon the Bill with the utmost alarm—I may say almost with abhorrence—and are glad that the Committee consists of two, for this reason: that we are not afraid of any majority or minority report, but at the same time there is not the slightest reason why you two should agree, in fact I should be very surprised if you did, and we ask you not to arrive at any decision piecemeal in respect of this duty you have imposed upon you—not to come to any decision in regard to any particular district, but rather to hold your hands until you have heard every opinion of the farmers of Natal and come to a decision on the bulk of this opinion, which you will find is dead against this legislation. They say it is unasked and uncalled for; that it is a tremendous blow against our future prospects of expansion, and that it is not in the interests of Europeans or natives. We ask that you arrive at your decision on Natal as a whole.

Mr. Richards thanked the Committee for coming to Mooi River and studying the convenience of the residents.

Mr. H. BLAKER, J.P.] I rise to second Mr. Richards' proposition. I think this is the most inopportune time possible for the Government to take such steps as they are taking now. It seems to me the Government now are trying to do all they possibly can to upset the future welfare of Natal and crush immigration and its progress generally.

Mr. Blaker maintained the request for more land had not emanated from the natives, but that the move had been organised by men whose knowledge of Natal and native life was negligible. He contended Natal would become a native location for the remainder of the Union; further, that some of the best land in Natal was still in the Government's hands. The Berg lands, Mr. Blaker stated, were entirely unfitted for native population. Try and draw the natives into villages and teach them that their wealth lies in the labour of their hands—then we shall be doing some good to the Kafir. The locations to-day are too big and unmanagable, and vice and crime are rampant. Look at an English village—9/10ths of the population turn out every day and earn the weekly wage; you have a contented community.

Mr. Blaker referred to the Mooi River district in much the same terms as the previous speaker, stating it was considered uninhabitable by whites when he acquired his land 52 years ago. He also referred to the Government by Proclamation in Natal areas as a grave injustice to Europeans. Further, to Sir William Beautmont's report (page 41 of Report), with which he absolutely agreed, stating serious trouble would be inevitable if the Bill passed, and that 45 per cent of the labour of Natal would be lost. He considered the Berg lands entirely unsuitable for natives.

Mr. Blaker contended progress would be strangled owing to lack of land for both immigrants and the rising generation and referred to the success of opening up lands on the Zululand coast. I wish to strongly emphasise that we are against the absorption of one single inch of land in Natal for Kafir purposes.

Mr. Richards.] We take your appointment as this: that the Government realises a colossal injustice has been done to Natal. They appointed a Commission which came to their decision without any knowledge or sympathy of the subject, and you are used by the Government to-day to put that wrong right. We feel that you are appointed to get the Government out of a hole. The other point is this: that you asked us to discuss these lands which are more or less adjacent to this particular area. Our reply to that is that we have specific instructions from the farmers of this county to discuss no lands in detail but to say we are utterly opposed to the whole principle of alienating any lands whatsoever.

Mr. S. B. WOOLLATT.] I maintain that this particular land in Weenen County is all suitable for European occupation, and I do say that if you have any regard for the future of Natal that you should be very guarded before you hand over any lands.

By Mr. Evans.] The suitability of the land depends upon the man who farms it. In my experience it is a question of rainfall, and any area with a fair average rainfall is suitable for European occupation. When you get your lands in proper condition the impossible, as prophesied, becomes possible. To my mind, if you go to a conference of an

Agricultural Union you will find most of the initiative comes from Natal. We are now going through one of the best phases in agricultural development and you are going to bottle up for all time some of the most valuable lands for agricultural purposes. Does the Government propose to treat the white man in the same way as the native, viz. to practically allow him to buy at his own price? Are you taking the white man's view or the native's view? If the former, then the land is suitable for Europeans. Well, I maintain that the whole of the land, except small individual plots, in Weenen County, is suitable for European occupation. On the high veld you have the rainfall; in the thorns you can utilise irrigation. The Berg land is all suitable for Europeans. It is good for winter grazing and there is no country in the world which will grow hay crops like that part. It is eminently suitable for dairying. What was the necessity of this? What have they taken from the Free State to give to niggers? Practically nothing. If the Government has really the welfare of the natives at heart, let them be taught how to farm on the lands they already have. All the pink area is suitable for Europeans, living there all the time. It is not suitable for natives. There are other districts where Europeans have suffered terrible hardships on account of drought; why don't they bring them there and give them the chance to prove them suitable?

Mr. Henderson.] The Berg lands are eminently suitable for European occupation. There are no natives on the tops—just a few in the river valleys, where they can cultivate small patches. The red ground on the tops will grow grasses. Our cattle winter there in the kloofs in the mountains without any food bar the veld. It would not carry a very great number of cattle unless they were provided for. We had 300 to 400 head there last winter, but had a great many more before East Coast Fever came.

By Mr. Evans.] I could not define the size of the area on account of the enormous slope of the Berg. Shelter is there because you have many kloofs. It is eminently suitable for ranching purposes. I have planted grasses there and they have done well. I say the whole of this ground should be excluded from this area. I have about 5 kraals on my land and my brother has 4 or 5. Before the location was thrown open I could have got more; they would have been satisfied to go there. Natives would not go on Hall's farms. "Compensation" belonged to us at one time; they would not go there.

Colonel B. CROMPTON.] With regard to this particular area you have been talking about, I have been up there in all weathers—in the summer and in the snowstorms in the winter. For natives it is absolutely unsuitable. I am speaking of the tops—you come across narrow gorges running into the mountains upon which you would find perhaps half an acre, one or two acres there, and so on, where Kafirs are scratching, and in some seasons they could grow crops. If you were to attempt to put natives on the tops and expect them to make a living there they would all be dead of starvation within twelve months, everyone of them, unless they got help from outside either by labour or something else. With regard to the report of the Commission, Sir, I have met a good many people throughout the country and discussed it with them, and if there is one thing which has come before the public it is the concensus of opinion with regard to this report. When you begin to question them they say "Well, look at the native areas already allocated to natives here in Natal." Colonel Crompton then quoted statistics in support of this contention that Natal is suffering far more heavily than any other province in this respect, also with regard to Zululand and the report of the Zululand Lands Delimitation Commission. We have loyally abided by that Commission's report, Sir, though we felt it was not altogether fair to us, and now they wish to take one million, eight hundred thousand odd morgen from us. In this same Blue Book we find that from the Free State not one single acre is to be taken—I have it on very good authority that every portion of those farms it is proposed to alienate to natives are actually in their possession to-day and have always been in their possession from the first days of the country's settlement and have been looked upon as locations. Now, we feel this is absolutely unjust and I can tell you, gentlemen, there will be trouble if this report is carried into effect as it is. You may rest assured that the people of Natal will not sit down under it. There is a tremendous antagonism to the report of this Commission. You will find that where a man is in favour of it he has never read the report of the Commission. Where a man has, I have never heard or come across one who was in favour of it.

Mr. Richards.] I cannot agree with you that if you go the length and breadth of Natal and meet such emphatic expression of opinion as you to-day do that you can afford to ignore it, and I cannot help feeling that as you go through Natal and hear this opinion reiterated it must have weight with you.

Mr. C. B. LLOYD.] With reference to that land under the Berg, I know it pretty well, and if you are going to plant it with Kafirs up there you will have another Langalibalele Rebellion. When they get up there they are far away from civilisation and they talk amongst themselves and then in a very short time we shall have another rebellion as we had in 1873.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, they can grow a few crops up there, and I suppose there were more cattle there when Langalibalele rebelled than in the rest of Natal. They can live there, because they did live there. When I came to this country over forty years ago I was able to buy mealies from 6d., 9d. and 1s. a bag, simply because the country produced

the mealies then; there was rain. For the last few years there have been dry seasons and the Kafirs have shouted out that they have no land. They have ample land provided they use it properly. Mr. Lloyd then touched upon various clauses in the draft Act of 1917.

Mr. Henderson.] I was to state this, as Vice-President of the Farmers' Association: We were elected as delegates—our Association is about 100 strong—and we are against this land being included in the Kafir area, *i.e.* any of this ground in Weenen County, both the Berg farms and the thorn farms—not one single acre of it in the whole of this county. We have no recommendation as regards the inclusion of any land in Estcourt division; we consider there is sufficient already.

Proceedings terminated at 4.30 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken at Estcourt, Natal, on 24th February, 1917, in Magistrate's Court Room, during forenoon.

Senator H. D. WINTER.] I understand the order of reference and have read the report. I find from that report they have included lands for native purposes which are utterly impossible for natives to live upon. Take from Mt. aux Sources—the lands bordering on the different locations are to-day unoccupied by natives. To prove that I am right (that it is not land which could be used for agricultural purposes by natives) there is the fact that during my existence in this county there have been no natives on these lands. All those Berg lands are absolutely useless as far as native occupation is concerned; they are more grazing lands than anything else. In the hollows and valleys there may be a hut or two. (Mr. Winter here gave a few particulars regarding ownership of farms.) "Dawn" belongs to my son, "Bergville" to myself. There are cattle and horses on those farms. "Dawn" is fenced and paddocked and has a dip and a beautiful homestead on it. For years past I have been trying to get natives to live on that land but cannot get them. On Hall's farms there is not a single hut; natives could not live there—emphatically not.

By Mr. Evans.] Thorn lands are occupied by natives, but within the last few years of droughty seasons they have not had much chance of growing crops on account of the weather. That land is used for winter grazing purposes and labour purposes, and I would not like to recommend any of that land as not suitable for European occupation.

By Mr. Chapman.] I object strongly to my land being included in a native area; I have a white man there. I said in my evidence that from "Half-way-House" upwards was not occupied by Europeans with the exception of places on the River Tugela. (Mr. Winter here gave a few particulars in regard to ownership of thorn farms.) They are all labour farms and winter grazing grounds for stock. Years ago cattle went down there regularly and I am looking forward to the time when they can go down again for a change of grazing. There are a few odd farms fenced there, but no improvements to speak of. The Berg lots are too high and cold and you cannot rely upon the rainfall in the thorns. I would like to impress this point. I have been here so long, and to my knowledge to-day, taking the whole of the Berg lands which are included in that area, I do not suppose there are 80 kraals in the whole lot. During my knowledge do I know that the land has ever been occupied by natives? Where there is a bit of good land a Kafir will follow it up and have it, and that is the case there. The lands within this native area are lands which are utterly useless for cultivation. I say that most emphatically. If it had not been for these Berg lands this year we should have lost hundreds and hundreds of pounds.

Mr. GERHARDUS MARTHINUS RUDOLPH.] I live on the farm "Aletta," outside the proposed area. I want to be very brief and only wish to state that the farms falling within the area in that locality are utterly unsuitable for native occupation. On this farm "Aletta" of mine, I have been trying to get natives to live for the last four years and I have failed; it is too cold. If heavily fertilised crops can be grown on "Aletta," but not on the other farms—those in the area. These farms are only used for spring grazing. In my opinion they are no good for winter grazing. I have tried mealies on "Aletta" but they have failed. If you get a dry season you might grow crops, but there is usually too much rain altogether.

Mr. J. C. ODENDAAL.] I live at Loskop, but have an interest in the Berg farms "Cloudlands" and "Arborfield," which we have just acquired from the Estate of Hodgson. We use this land for grazing only, which is the only possible use to which it can be put. Natives will not live there and nothing will grow there. I consider it is utterly unsuitable for native occupation. It is more valuable for spring grazing than anything else. Young stock will do well there until about March; they must have plenty of salt. A Kafir would starve within six months in that locality.

Mr. E. B. GRIFFIN.] I have been deputed by the committee (appointed by members of the Weenen Agricultural Society) to speak on their behalf. We are a deputation appointed at a general meeting called in Estcourt under the auspices of the Weenen County Agricultural Society, and we are here especially to support the resolution passed at that

meeting. I will read the resolution before anything else is done: That this meeting resolves (1) To protest emphatically against the passing, during the lifetime of the present Parliament, any legislation based upon the report submitted by the Native Lands Commission; (2) That all such proposed legislation shall be held in abeyance during the war; (3) That in the meantime a short Act shall be immediately passed giving release and complete freedom of action to the owners of all such lands as have been indicated by the Commission for inclusion in a native area; (4) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the member for the county for conveyance to the Prime Minister, and the member be requested to take such action as will best give effect to the resolution. I am asked to say that clause No. 2 is to be withdrawn; will you kindly delete it. Well, we understand that a lot of land has been marked off as suitable for native occupation and we feel that it is not so—that most of the land in the Berg is only suitable for grazing. As far as my knowledge goes, and it is a lifelong knowledge of this country, the lands under the Berg are only suitable for grazing and have been used as such as long as I can remember, chiefly for spring grazing, for which they are indispensible. Had it not been for these farms this last spring many men would have come to grief with their stock. There is practically no land under cultivation at all and what little there is has to be very heavily manured. As far as native occupation, I know there are not many kraals up there except in very small areas where there may be one or two kraals, but speaking of the land generally, I am sure it is unfit for native occupation. I refer to the whole of the Berg lands in Estcourt division.

Mr. ROBERT GRAY.] I have lived all my life there and was born in that part. I know this: that apart from grazing these lands are useless. For spring grazing they are most useful, and then at this time of the year they are useful for horses. Natives send their horses up there, but apart from their grazing value, *i.e.* for cultivation, they are useless. The natives could not live there.

Mr. A. CARTER.] The Europeans have occupied outside of this area (I refer to the thorn farms) chiefly, but many are quite fit for Europeans to occupy. They are valuable lands, although dry. When you get down to the Tugela and lower part adjoining the Mpofana Location, I do not think that Europeans would farm there for choice. Natives could live in those Crown Lands; it is very dense thorn country. There were natives living on most of them when I fenced that location. Europeans could live in the locality I have indicated permanently. It is quite good stock and arable land. There were no Europeans living there all the year round—only on bordering farms—when I was there. Most of these farms had houses on them when they originally belonged to the Dutch. They went and lived there in the winter. There have been no additional improvements. I fenced the whole of this area when Sir Frederick Moor was Minister for Native Affairs, and have been over most of this country. Most of these lands are used by men who used them extensively for winter grazing, but, of course, with East Coast fever we have been prevented from doing it for some years. As soon as the disease is done away with these lands will be used to a great extent again. No Europeans would live in that portion on the Tugela River. "Winter Lodge" and "Baviaans Krantz" are, I think, both suitable for Europeans. The latter is a very good farm; they have lucerne growing there. "Wilhelmina's Rust" and "Louis Daal" are the only two possible places where Kafirs could exist. There is a little arable land on "Louis Daal" and very, very little on the others, but natives have lived there 20 years. Kafirs will not live in the sources of the Bushman's River. I do not think you could grow crops in the Berg area with fertiliser—the ground is too shallow, too loose and too open. I do not think you could graze stock there all the year round; they would need changing. On "Deelpunt" they keep sheep all the year round.

Mr. Gray.] Sheep could be kept for a fair portion of the year, but you need to change. There is shelter, but the grass gets coarse and woody at certain times.

Mr. Carter.] Regarding "Zuikerboschrand" and adjoining lots coloured pink, the only possible reason they could be included is for horses in the summer. "Zuikerboschrand" is very high; it is a hill and drops down to the river. Buys, who owns "Tiger Hoek" uses the upper end of "Zuikerboschrand" for his horses. No Kafir can live there; it is a mountain spur. I think it would be a very great hardship if these lots were put into native location.

Mr. J. H. K. MILLAR.] For the last three years, if we had not had these Berg lands we should have been very troubled. The use of these has saved thousands of animals.

Mr. Gray.] I would like you to bear in mind the use to which the locations are put. All round Loskop it is ridiculous to see what is being done by the natives there—a splendid producing country lying idle. That location is capable of carrying more than three times the number of natives there are now, simply because it is not properly utilised.

Sir FREDERICK MOOR.] As to this, I have tried it all years ago, when I was in office, *i.e.* the moving of natives from one part to another, and I found it impossible; although I did my best I failed to accomplish my ends. Directly you touch these people whom you want to remove and say "Very well, we will get you land elsewhere," you go elsewhere and you find it is fully occupied. It is like having two glasses of water and trying to empty one into the other. It is practically an impossibility.

Revd. W. C. WILLCOX.] This Land Act is simply going to ruin me. I was starting an industrial self-supporting mission. I am an independent missionary but was connected

with the American Zulu Mission for over 27 years. At the request of the natives I bought three farms, with their money, to cut up into small holdings. There was no question about our coming out; all was going very well. Any profit would go to the natives when we cleared up. When I speak of profit it was really a syndicate of which I was manager; we formed a Limited Liability Company and it was in the Articles of Association that any profits should go to the company. This Land Act frightened them at once, and we could not sell to a white man—none would buy. I tried to sell one of the farms to Europeans but it was impracticable.

By Mr. Evans.] There were three farms in all: "Hopewell" and "Cornfields" in this division, and "Essiena," near Stanger. The first two lots comprise about 2,200 acres altogether. My complaint is really that I am not in a native area. As a matter of fact, I am practically bankrupt now. What is to be done with these natives? There are 200 families. It was proposed by the Chief Native Commissioner to make an assignment.

Mr. R. M. DRUMMOND (Solicitor).] The farms "Hopewell" and "Cornfields" were purchased some time before the Natives Land Act came into force. Mr. Willcox cut up these farms; there is a township in each lot of half-acre lots and in addition there are small holdings of from 5 to 40 acres each, also a commonage on each farm. Mr. Willcox has been selling these township stands at £3 a lot of half an acre. The remainder has been sold at £2 an acre up to £3 where the land is extra good. A lot of natives have acquired title in various parts of the farms, where they have selected holdings. If you tried to sell to a European he would say "What is the use of buying land in an area sprinkled about with natives"? The natives are not in a position to buy the unsold portions of these farms, *i.e.* as a whole. At the present time Mr. Willcox has absolutely been stopped selling any more land and there are hundreds of natives who have not paid the whole purchase price yet. They won't pay now; they would rather lose the money they have put in than lose any more. If it were specially proclaimed as a native area they would have no objection. It would be to their advantage and to Mr. Willcox', and he would get his money back. Exactly the same principle applies to the farm at Stanger, although there have not been any titles issued there.

NATIVE WITNESSES.

Present: Messrs. H. J. Colenbrander, Magistrate, Estcourt; A. A. K. de Waal, interpreting.

Chief VUTA (of the Amankantolo Tribe).] If I would say anything it is that the area is too small for us; it is unsuitable to accommodate a large body of natives. I know the locality; I was an Induna at this court for 11 years. I myself live a long way away from this area. None of my natives would go there, I think, unless they left my tribe. I understand the position. The area which is thickly populated is that which is comprised of farms forming the boundary. That portion of the area which comprises the slopes of the Berg is unsuitable for native occupation. There is not much arable land; where there is, it is already taken up.

By Mr. Evans.] I cannot express an opinion on behalf of others as to whether they would be glad of the opportunity of going on this land.

Chief MARUBELA (of the Abasembo Tribe).] I wish to say that that area is only suitable for grazing stock. It is not an area which could be set apart for habitation by human beings at all; it is not a fertile area.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is a small area towards Mr. Francis' farms, in the Mibidwane Valley, but it could only hold 10 families at the most. We, as natives, would be very grateful to Government to be given such land, provided we had somewhere to plough, because natives could not go there and exist on stones.

Induna NDAYISANA.] With regard to that area, I wish to say that if you were to go along there you might find a solitary kraal here and there, but as regards arable land, as far as my knowledge goes there is none at all. It is very suitable for cattle and especially for horses. Stock need to be brought to the lower veld in winter, because it is very cold.

BOLANDE (official witness of Chief MRUBELA).] I wish to say there is no arable land in that area, which I know well. I say if the Government wish to set apart an area for native occupation why give us an area which we cannot cultivate?

SOMPENJANA (Official Witness of Chief MRUBELA).] I just wish to endorse my Chief's statement to the effect that there is really no arable land in that area. It is a good grazing place for cattle. Of course, Government have entire control of the land near the Berg, which is an eland farm. Even if Government had not made an eland farm of it there is no arable land there except a small patch on Mr. Dickens' farm "Louisdaal." If all the ground were arable it would, of course, be a nice big area.

By Mr. Chapman.] Cold could be overcome if we could cultivate, but are cattle to be allowed to graze with eland?

MADHLULANA (Official Witness to Chief MRUBELA).] I say we as natives would welcome an area like that to be set apart, except that it is such a small area, because there are several of us on farms who would gladly go and live there, but it would not hold many

natives on account of the scarcity of arable lands. There are many natives who have complaints and ask that Government set aside locations for them.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, the reason we consider it is not suitable is on account of the lack of arable land. If it were not for that there would be numbers and numbers of natives who would gladly go and live there in order to get a rest from farm labour.

MANGISI (official witness to Chief VUBA).] I wish to say we have a lot of troubles on account of farms and would hasten to live on any area like that, but what would be the use of an area where we would starve?

By Mr. Chapman.] I cannot say if natives would buy land; there may be some.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which dispersed at 1 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken at Magistrate's Office, Bergville, Natal, on 27th February, 1917.

The usual introductory address was made by Mr. Evans.

Mr. GEORGE COVENTRY states that his brother, Mr. William Coventry, and himself are deputed to express the views of the district, including the Acton Homes portion. I have carefully read and kept myself pretty well posted with your duties and I have been rather puzzled, but my opinion is that we have to put before you our view as to the desirability of more land being given to natives, and I want to confine myself to the intention of this Commission. We have not very great complaints in this division, that is with regard to the native areas, but we consider the natives have sufficient land and no more should be given to them—whether it is suitable or unsuitable; that does not go with us at all. If they are entitled to it, they should have decent land given to them, but our contention to a man is that no more should be given or added to locations. That is the opinion in a nutshell. It is not the first time we have been before you on this question. We have for these last 40 years or more taken a great interest in this question, for the simple reason that we considered it was one of great importance and affecting the progress or otherwise of this country. (Mr. Coventry refers to his evidence in this regard before the Native Affairs Commission.) I did not have a chance to give evidence before Sir William Beaumont's Commission. (Mr. Coventry here related the circumstances preventing his appearance—insufficient notice and, latterly, illness.) That is one of our complaints about that Commission. Three of us (G. L., W. and Charles Coventry) gave evidence before the Native Affairs Commission. We have nothing to add; that is our position.

By Mr. Chapman.] Regarding land at Acton Homes, I am glad to say that most of that land has fallen back into European hands now through inability of the natives to pay instalments. Roughly they own about 5,000 acres; they have dropped from 40,000 to 5,000 acres.

Mr. Evans.] Was not a large portion of it Crown Lands?

Mr G. Coventry.] Yes, and they failed in their instalments in nearly every case. The 40,000 acres scheme was organised by Gumede to a great extent.

By Mr. Chapman.] This area they hold now is part of the original 40,000 acres. The land about which we complained, adjoining the settlement, was purchased at a public auction, where they were pitted against Europeans, and under an easy system of payment, of course they were able to work off and pay instalments, but now they are all at sixes and sevens. It is gradually going back; they won't be able to hold it. They are trying to buy all over the place.

Mr. WILLIAM COVENTRY.] I could sell my farm to-morrow.

Mr. George Coventry.] Some years ago, when we were threatened that the natives were going to buy us out with all these native syndicates, they came to me and wanted to know if I would sell out. I said "No, not at present," although there was a feeling within me that I should have to yield to them. They said "Well, we want to buy land, and we are trying to buy as much as ever we can, from the Tugela here right round to join "Driefontein.'" If I did not sell—mind you, this was a threat—if I did not sell, there would be no white man offering to buy and they would get it at their own price. I was in a real stew, I can assure you, gentlemen. My brothers and I often held little meetings, wondering if it would not be better for us now to yield and sell out to these men and leave the country. We were seriously considering that question when Union was brought in. We then thought there was some hope of a different system of governing the natives and we have not been disappointed in that; this Bill was passed and we decided to remain there. As far as this Bill has gone it has thoroughly satisfied us, that is, if they carry it through. We are a large family, and if this Bill is rejected, why then the quicker we take means of getting out of the country the better it will be for us and for our children. I certainly am in favour of the principles of this draft Act.

Mr. William Coventry.] Our policy for a long time was this: we found it was impossible for the two classes of people to live together as landowners. They had either to be land-owners and we go out, or *vice versâ*. Well, the great controversy was what to do,

and we throught they would draft a Land Act, which they have done. Now, the majority of the people are finding fault with the Government for taking parts of Natal to give out to Kafirs. I have found out that mission Kafirs living in locations say, "The Government is now putting us into a kraal—and giving us only a calf's hok." What are they saying about the present Bill? They say, "This is not giving us a little country to ourselves. Government will still make laws for us which we do not understand and under which we will never live in peace." They say, "Give us a land altogether in one part, like Zululand; let us have a paramount chief—Solomon—and let the chiefs be under him, and they should be ruled under a paramount chief." Then," they say, "if we have a High Commissioner to settle any cases which Solomon could not settle, it would be all right." They say, "What means have we got to make room for the coming generation? How can we govern ourselves if one chief is here and another there? We have no say in the Government and in the matter of governing these locations." Well, you know, they say civilised people cannot make laws to suit uncivilised people. If you were to give them Zululand—take the same number of acres that you are going to take in Natal—and let them have a little country to themselves they would be willing to live there and have the governing of themselves in their own country; that would make them a satisfied people. Every Kafir who chose to remain behind to work for people shall remain under English law. If we give them these locations now they will have to have men representing them in the House of the Assembly. (This view is corrected by the Committee. Mr. G. Coventry stated it is a prevalent idea amongst the natives.)

Mr. W. Coventry (continuing).] In the time to come they may clamour for a vote and I suppose they will get it, but give them a country of their own. They will feel satisfied they have got their own House of Parliament and they will never want to return a Member or ask for a vote. They will be under our magistrates. Why should a progressive man spend a lot of money on a nice home when there is a location of 10 or 15 thousand acres adjoining it where the natives might break into rebellion and clear him out at a moment's notice? Now, if these men were all placed in Zululand under Solomon there would be no chiefs left to guide them into rebellion and we would be in safety. A Kafir said to me "How is it that you call yourselves christian people and go to the bible to make laws, how is it that your ministers and legal people say we must not have two wives and yet your English Government legalise that? God has given you this land to rule; how is it that you do not make the right laws, similar to yourselves"? Well, it came into my mind how to do this; give them over to Zululand. If you like and if they go there, these here should be told they are not to practise polygamy but they must abide by our English laws straight off. There was another point: well, if we made a law like that at the beginning, those natives who remain behind are under English law, and put them over in the location as undesirables if they break it. Then you will have a more contented people than you have to-day. They say you make and change laws, but if you make that law simply that you are not to marry more than one wife and not "lobola" for her, that would settle all the trouble here.

By Mr. Chapman.] Hundreds of natives would remain on farms. It is the location Kafirs that are dissatisfied. There are many who have been living on land colonisation farms; they would go over. There is a dissatisfied element amongst them, and the satisfied boys say. "Why don't the Government give these dissatisfied ones a chance to improve and live by themselves." Well, if you did that you would have a contented Kafir population. They say there is not enough ground in the location for them to plough (the Upper Tugela Location). They say the number of Kafirs could be doubled or trebled if there was more land to plough. "Well," they say, "give us the same quantity of land in Zululand; there is ample room there for three times as many Kafirs." Well, some people say it will cause a big rebellion if we give them Zululand. These natives who talk to me said: "If you put them into kraals it will only be a question of time before we have a big war." The cost of that war will be enormous, both in lives and in capital. Well, I say we cannot shoot these men down; we must give them land, but why give it to them in patches: give it them in one block. You think it would be difficult to bring this scheme about? Look here—as easy as clockwork. The natives say: "If the chief says No, we would leave him. We know Natal belongs to the whites, but Zululand we do make a claim to, and if you were to tell the natives they could go there they would go without any forcing at all.

By Mr. Chapman.] The natives declare there is room for all the Kafirs in the locations. Some of them have said: "Has the Government ever gone to those chiefs and pointed out this plan I am recommending now?

Mr. George Coventry.] I am pretty well acquainted with this location (Upper Tugela) and I can truly say that this location could hold many more, but it is held back; you know what natives are with regard to witchcraft. A native goes to look for a piece of land. He is confronted with a lot of people: one kraal says that is mine and another says this is mine—you must not go there.

Mr. William Coventry.] The whole thing which dissatisfies the Kafirs is that they have no voice in making laws for their domestic affairs. Well, if they were given a little country this would be done away with. You need not mark off so many acres for every chief. Cut up a portion of Zululand if you don't want to cut up the sugar estates. You

could take that off and add all the thorny land on this side of Tugela. Give them the boundary, and then it would be easy to defend ourselves by the Government putting down blockhouses all along that boundary if necessary.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am positive they would be contented under that system.

Mr. Chapman.] But what would be the Zulu's idea—the man who is living there now?

Mr. George Coventry states that many natives left this district and that of Helpmakaar to go to Zululand about 30 or 40 years ago.

Mr. William Coventry.] This plan would satisfy the whites in a minute. I spoke at a meeting at Ladysmith on this very same subject and Mr. Burton said, "That is the exact policy of the Government," so I feel sure if you put that before them they will say at once "The people of Natal are objecting to Natal being given to Kafirs; very well, give them Zululand."

Mr. George Coventry.] I want to go back a long way. How many natives have we who have a claim upon the Government for land in Natal? We as a district decidedly object to more land being set aside for natives in Natal. My contention is that the natives have no right or title to demand more land.

Mr. C. P. F. VAN ROOYEN.] I live on the farm "Brotherton" which I have just taken over from Mr. Zunckel, about two months ago. Yes, I intend to make my home there. I have no other land. There is still over £700 due to Government. It is 2,000 acres in extent. I am just preparing to move there. You could plough about 100 acres, if not more—not in one place, but taking the farm as a whole, principally in the valleys. I intend going in for stock farming. Sheep would do well there in the winter. There are about 7 small kraals on the farm, but two are moving. I do not know how many huts there are; some of them have only one hut; only one has three huts. I shall use these natives for labour purposes. I have been on the adjoining farms. There are a good few kraals on Buys' farms—about 8 or 10. There are very few on the other lots—only one or two on a farm. I do not think the natives like it very much up there because it is more suitable for stock farms. The land is only good for cultivation in parts. There is no land there for a large population. When I bought the farm I heard it was in the area.

Mr. Chapman.] If it is in a native area do you think it will affect the value of the farm?

Mr. Van Rooyen.] There are so many people without any farms and still waiting for them. The land is good for winter grazing and, on the tops, good spring grazing.

Mr. H. S. LOMBARD.] It is a splendid country. It is the best country for sheep in the Berg. It is unsuitable land for Kafirs. I know the farm "Solar Cliffs"; my son-in-law reaped 140 bags of mealies there last year. I do not think anyone in the locality had more mealies last year, but this year he has ploughed up more land than last. We would not plough on the tops: it is too poor, but all right for grazing. The natives grow enough some years for themselves; last year they had enough.

Mr. J. W. STEWART.] I live in the district, of which I used to be Stock Inspector, and I know the proposed native area. The whole place, I understand, is 50,000 acres and I do not think there are 50 huts on the whole lot, and they would be principally along the river Mbonjwa. The Mahlazini has practically no lands; it is too narrow. If you plough lands on the top you would not grow mealies a foot high. As far as native occupation goes it is useless on account of the lack of arable land, but it is good grazing land. There are a few native farms in this district. One has a farm of 3,000 acres and I guarantee if you were to offer them five times the amount of land there in exchange for these 3,000 acres they would laugh at you. This area is absolutely unsuitable for native occupation. It is unsuitable for small farms, as they are there. It should be in huge farms of at least 10,000 acres—simply grazing areas. Stock winter well there. The families living there are Sweetman and Sutton. Buys is just there for winter grazing and stays from April to December. The fact that natives never have lived there when they could have lived there as much as they liked should be a good argument against its unsuitability. There is arable land towards the Berg. There are flats, but they would give no return. I doubt if a mealie would grow a foot high. They would have to be very large farms to be taken up, or it should be cut into two pieces for ranching. I think this part is about the pick of the Berg for grazing.

Mr. C. H. H. COVENTRY.] I have been up that part. My idea about the whole thing is that it is not fit for native occupation, neither the European. It is a grazing land, because there is not much ground there to be cultivated. I do not think a European could live and make a living out of it. It would have to be a large sized block. It would be better for cattle ranching in a large block. I have asked two or three natives if they would like to go to that part if they could buy it. They say they would rather never see it: they could do better on a smaller acreage here.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, I do not think there is any tendency on the part of natives to leave farms for locations. I think the natives in a location already regard it as theirs and they do not want anyone else there. They would be putting every obstacle in their way. Natives who would not work on the farms have gone into locations. If there is going to be any limit to locations, what will it be in a short time? We have a farm adjoining us of 822 acres with nearly 30 kraals on it who are renters to the native owners

They have been to me four times since New Year to buy my place, which is not good for cultivation but is for stock. They wanted mine to join on to theirs so that they could put all their stock there and cultivate the lands. They are mostly Salvation Army, Dutch Reformed and Wesleyan Church natives. They have been very good natives and we draw a lot of labour from there. I told them I could not sell. If that was allowed they would want the next farm as soon as they got full there. I know they would be only too glad to buy lots of land. I think they are in a position to pay for this land.

Mr. George Coventry.] "Hambrook" is 811 acres. 22 heads of families bought it. They are not satisfied with that; they are talking to and encouraging all natives around to go and rent from them at £2 a hut, advising them to stop working on farms. The head of that farm, Ephraim, has boycotted us for labour. They boycott us unless they get a certain wage. These last two years they have kept labour from going to us. It is registered in the name of a syndicate, but since they have paid for it it has been sub-divided and each one has a certain number of acres, and has a number of rent-paying tenants on his piece. A kraal which has been with me for nearly 30 years is being continually approached to leave and go there. They admit we have been just and good to them. One or two use fertilisers and copy us and have improved.

Mr. Stewart.] They all use fertilisers and plant in rows and scarrify. "Hambrook" is about the best piece of native cultivated land I have seen. The natives who want to buy land are those who are going to improve.

Mr. A. C. LOMBARD.] I am the owner of "Solar Cliffs," and have been there now for four years. I farm with sheep, of which I have about 800. They do all right in the winter, but not in the summer—that is lambs. Cattle are doing well, but we cannot get cattle there because we are not fully fenced. I have not many cattle at present. There are no lands to speak of on those farms. I cultivate about 40 acres on the river bank; this includes my natives' lands. I have 8 huts on my farm; they are labour tenants. They have a few cattle. Nothing will grow on the tops, but it is good grazing.

By Mr. Evans.] I cannot get any more ploughing ground; it is all stones. I know all the other farms; my farm is regarded as the best. On the Mabonjwa Stream there are patches of land. They are rougher farms than mine. Buys lives there 9 months of the year according to his occupation conditions—from March to December or November. His farms are all right for grazing. There are no lands at all on Sweetman's and Sutton's farms. They farm sheep. There are no natives on these farms. My farm is 2,000 acres. I run 1,200 sheep on the average. Only 6 instalments have been paid on this farm. The first man to have it was Zunckel, then Rheeder, and then I got it. I am satisfied I can make a living on that farm as a sheep farmer. We lose sheep from wire-worm in the summer. I lamb in September. "The Glens" is right on top of the Berg; no one can live there.

Report of Native Evidence, Mr. H. F. Fynn interpreting.

Chief MBULAWE.] Notwithstanding that I like my land, Government can take it from me; I have no power. The Government has power. If they want to do so they can do it. I have only one request to make; as far as I am concerned, I have plenty of trees on my farm, also numerous buildings. I have cultivated a tremendous lot of ground. If it comes to the Government taking over my farm, all I ask is that they will give me first choice of the lands thrown open for native areas. Government will be able to value my present farm; I know nothing—Government knows everything. When I have chosen a site in the native areas, Government will give me whatever I am entitled to. Government will value my trees, buildings and cultivated ground. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Chapman explained that his position will be exactly the same as a European in a native area; that as far as is known it is not the intention to take land away from anyone, but should it be done full compensation would undoubtedly be made for improvements.

Chief Mbulawe.] That is all I ask. Money is of no use to me. It is the ground I value, not the money. I bought this farm and intended to keep it all my life and live there. As I am situated now I cannot sell to a native. The British Government never kill anybody; there is always an alternative.

By Mr. Chapman.] I know the recommended native area. It is hilly and unlike our land, where you can plough where you choose; you cannot there. It is very broken country. Some would buy; I do not know if there be many. It is nothing to be compared with the land round here for crops. If the native did as the European does and manured his fields they would get crops; otherwise they would not.

WILLIAM GUMEDE (after asking various questions regarding provisions of the Act) states.] It appears to be useless to ask any more questions, as the Act has not been passed yet. I understand clearly the position. Whatever happens will not wipe our tears away after our land is taken and we are given land in the recommended area, which contains no ground equivalent to ours.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is many years since I went over that area and I did not take

particular notice of it, but from what I remember it was not land which was fit for anyone to live in. I hear you mention Crown Lands and locations. You have made no mention of mission reserves; how are these affected? (He is told they are not affected).

Mr. C. HIME (magistrate of division).] On behalf of the Chief Mnyamana, I wish to represent that he was somewhat afraid that the Government intend to allot further lands out of the location, which would rather push him back. It is just a fear he expressed and he wanted to appear before you to ask that no further land should be given to Europeans in that area. On behalf of the natives who have at present got farms in the recommended European area, I wish to state that there are native-occupied farms to the extent of about 11,000 acres in the European area in this division. Many of those farms have been held by their owners for a very long time. There are certain sentiments attached to those lands; they have been there long, and in many cases buried their people there. They have sentiments as well as the Europeans and they do ask as far as possible that they should not be turned off lands which they look upon as their own and which they hoped to leave to their children to be lived on by their children's children.

Proceedings terminated about 3.30 p.m.

COPY.

BERGVILLE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

Bergville, Natal,
27th February, 1917.

The Members,
Natives' Land Committee.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to enclose for your information, copy of resolutions passed at a very largely attended general meeting of the Association, held on the 21st instant.

The resolutions were passed unanimously.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) T. M. OWEN,
President.

Resolutions unanimously passed at a Special General Meeting of the Association, held in Bergville on 21st February, 1917:

"That this meeting resolves (1) To protest emphatically against the passing, during the lifetime of the present Parliament, of any legislation based upon the report submitted by the Native Lands Commission; (2) That all such proposed legislation shall be held in abeyance during the war; (3) That in the meantime a short Act shall be immediately passed giving release and complete freedom of action to the owners of all such lands as have been indicated by the Commission for inclusion in a native area; (4) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the member for the county for conveyance to the Prime Minister, and the members be requested to take such action as will best give effect to the resolution."

Report of Evidence taken at Driefontein, Klip River division, on 2nd March, 1917, in the residence of the late Chief Joseph Kumalo's widow, during forenoon.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly, numbering about 60. Mr. Albert Msimang acted as interpreter.

JOSEPH SONDEZA.] I stand as one appointed to speak for the meeting. I am pleased to hear your words to-day—that you are here about the separation of the lands of the Europeans and the natives—to see what separation is to be done. Which Government was it that appointed you? (He is informed.) I was thankful to hear that. I understand that you wish to know the feelings of the people. We do not know what lands are given to us and what difficulties have arisen. (A description of the recommended native areas is given.)

EZRA MSIMANG.] We are glad that you came here. I understand that a native is not given more land and I cannot see how the lands recommended as native areas will become such if the white people are not willing. I am surprised that the Commission is not giving more land to the natives, as they have not enough. In other places there might be more, but there is not enough in the Klip River division. According to your statement you pointed to places which the people have already purchased. The area recommended is already owned by natives, and if the European owners of the few farms included do not want to sell we are still in the same position. When we went to Ladysmith we told the Commission more land was needed because the natives were numerous. We do not know the reason why the second Commission was appointed—whether the whites complain that their land is being taken away from them and given to natives, or whether the natives have not enough land? I ask, could you expect them to say the land should be taken away from the natives since we have not enough land? (Explanations as to the working of the Act are here given by Mr. Evans.) The first Commission knows that we want additional land. We were told that we must keep quiet, then we can buy land. The natives are at present crowded. In those places marked red a white man may continue to live and pass it on from generation to generation, so we need more land. We have heard and we were glad, thinking that the Commission was coming now to give us more land, but we see there is nothing of the sort. The only thing that we see is that we can have land when the white people on those farms agree. As to my opinion that now there is no land which is not crowded with natives—even on "Driefontein," I think if the Government took from by Matiwana's to the border of the Free State it would help. There are Europeans as well as natives in that area. There are no occupants of the lands near the Berg. I think if that could be remembered it would improve the present position. There is very little arable land there in that country.

(Note:—Frequent explanations by the Committee interspersed the foregoing evidence.)

LUDOVIC NDAWENI.] I have only a word to say: Why is it that the Government does not allow us to purchase Crown Lands on the Berg? It will take a long time if we have to wait for the white people to sell.

By Mr. Evans.] The lands I speak of are just on the Berg. (It is pointed out that there are no Crown Lands there.)

ALBERT MSIMANG.] There is good ploughing land and good grazing land just towards the Berg. It is very good for horses. We want high veld for our horses in the summer. I would recommend inclusion in the native area of the following farms: "Kruisfontein," "A of New Forest," "Boundary Slopes," "Grace Dale," "Grace Hoek," "Zaaiberg," "Zaaifontein," "A" or "Winter's Hoek"—(forming a compact block to the Berg).

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, we take native tenants and used to charge rent only; we were stopped by the Act. Most of them are labour tenants. They pay £3 a hut and plough as much as they like. We do not mind the number of cattle they have. "Driefontein" is owned by a syndicate of about 70.

E. Msimang (questioned by Mr. Evans).] There are hundreds, not members of the syndicate, on this farm "Driefontein." Yes, they do pay rent. (Declines to give particulars as to amount of rental charged.)

Mr. Evans.] Who gets the money?

E. Msimang.] A Committee of the Trust gets the money.

Mr. Evans.] The same applies to the other farms held by the syndicate?

E. Msimang.] Yes. We thank you very much for coming and making plain to us all we did not know. We request that we be not thrown out of "Driefontein." We expect the Government to give us more land than "Driefontein." We are a little people. I think it would be wise for the Government to give natives more land since they (the Government) are learning you may trust to them for to-morrow.

After a concluding address by Mr. Evans the assembly dispersed at about 1.30 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken at Ladysmith, during forenoon of 3rd March, 1917.

Mr. THOMAS G. B. STEVENS.] I would like to speak purely from my own point. I am owner of the farm "Potsdam"—a farm which is marked red on the map. I live on the farm with my wife and in every sense I have made it my home. Some three years ago I received a notice from the Government to the effect that if I did not improve this farm—fence it and erect a cattle dip—it would be done at my cost. This I have done and also put up necessary buildings—dwellings and sheds. It is my one source of income and I may say it represents my life's savings. I held a farm previous to that—"Lombard's Kop"—which I think the Land Settlement Board purchased from me. I much prefer the farm I now have to "Lombard's Kop"; I find it a more profitable farm from a stock point. The only objection to the farm is the distance from Ladysmith, but as I find a ready

market for my produce amongst natives there and I am able to bring my cream into Ladysmith at a very small cost—four donkeys and a cart—it is really nothing. I have had to fight tick fever there with my neighbours for the last three years, and I consider it a hardship to me if that area—without any consideration to me whatever—is declared a native area and natives are put in there to breed up tick fever and scab. There is any amount of water—more water than it can carry stock—unlimited water, as a matter of fact. "Tenten's Kraal," owned by Goldby, we work as one; the cattle from that farm are now dipping in my tank. In the report before the last Commission certain gentlemen made statements. I claim that these men are not practical men. For instance, one is a missionary; he made the remark that none of that land is suitable for white occupation. I think Mr. Quested has lived on his farm for many years, and I am living there with my wife and family. The reason it is not occupied I put down purely to the ticks previous to dipping which has quite got over that. I am milking from 50 to 60 cows and I am sending from 40 to 45 gallons of cream away per week. My last cream cheque was £29 for January

By Mr. Chapman.] I cannot agree with Mr. Robinson at all. I have lived there for three years. Mr. Anderson has a man on his farm. I am quite satisfied with it and do not wish to leave it. There is nobody on Mr. W. S. Goldby's farm; it is in Weenen. At one time we proposed working the two farms as a partnership. They are now enclosed in one boundary. My farm is more than entirely fenced, but the fence is not on the boundary. It is fenced on three sides of the boundary, but owing to tick fever restrictions before I could get my neighbours to fence the Veterinary Officer would not allow me to bring my stock in. They were then on Mr. Anderson's farm adjoining and the only way I could get out of the difficulty was to put up a cross fence. It is more than fully fenced, besides having paddocks. Buildings are of stone under iron roofs. I have not reckoned up the value of improvements, but will prepare and send you a statement. I cultivate roughly 100 acres. I can get any amount more to plough. I should say as natives would plough it—in small pieces—quite half of it is arable. Yes, I have had natives approach me with a view to buying it. The Chief Bandi did. This also applies to the farm "Tenten's Kraal"; as a matter of fact, he is just waiting to see what is done before he buys anything.

By Mr. Evans.] I bought it from the Colonisation Company about three years ago. It was unoccupied by whites before. Not a beast has been moved off the farm since I bought it. The natives are working for me as labour tenants. There are three huts on the farm still paying me rent because they have no labour—two old men and a widow. I have a ready market, in fact I bring mealies from Ladysmith to sell to them now. There are about 20 huts on the farm.

By both Members.] Besides myself there is a white man on Mr. Anderson's farm and another on "Zondaghsrivier." I claim it to be one of the best parts of Klip River. I would sell if I got my price. I gave a little over 16s. an acre. My living is farming and I do not know if I could buy land as suitable for my business as this. I certainly would not like to be surrounded by natives. I myself control "Tenten's Kraal" as regards the stock in respect of dipping. From a social point I am rather far away, but from a monetary point it is very satisfactory.

Mr. H. E. K. ANDERSON.] I reside in Ladysmith. I own the farm "Paarde Voet Pad," which is marked pink on the plan. Like Mr. Stevens I received an order from the Government to erect a dipping tank and fence the farm, and I did so. The farm has ever since I bought it been stocked—fully stocked. I would like to say, with regard to the evidence (I have read the whole of the evidence in regard to the native area in this division), I would like to say that I entirely disagree with the evidence given by Mr. Christopher and Mr. Robinson in regard to the value of the land in that part. I doubt if Mr. Christopher has ever been down there. I am quite satisfied that these lands with very few exceptions are eminently suitable for European occupation. The trouble in the past has been the tick. I have only one farm in the native area and of course I have other land outside the area. If I am forced to sell it I could clear out of the area, move my stock and put it on other lands. What I am afraid of is that if this is made into a native area we shall lose control of tick fever. We are going to be surrounded by natives. I do not know what control there will be and at the present time I have, at a considerable loss, managed to clean my farm. I do not want my place turned into a native warren and have tick fever wiping out my cattle.

By Mr. Evans.] That is not the case here. Wherever tick fever is raging it is on Crown Lands and private lands occupied by natives and European farms occupied by natives. Well, I can assure you that does not apply to this district. There is "Matiwan's Kop," a native-owned farm right in the midst of a European district and they have been trying to clear it for the last 5 or 6 years and it is still infected. It is because the natives are more indifferent than Europeans. We are quite in the dark as to what will happen if this is a native area. I know exactly how I stand now and I would rather be in the position I am at present than attempt on what is coming. I believe I could sell to natives. I don't want the farm if it is to be brought into a native area. I would get out of it. I suppose another view I take of it is that it seems to be encouraging European owners of

land in the native area to pack their farms as full as they can with rent-paying natives. I am prepared to be perfectly reasonable and I am quite prepared to go out and be done with it, but I do not like the idea of having the country packed with natives and carry on as I am now. I would sell at a fair valuation, because I have other land where I can take my stock and go. It cost me £600 to clean that farm. No, I have not made a home there and never intended to. I bought that farm in order to farm stock; it is not what I call an agricultural farm. It is all right from a native point of view, but it is not an agricultural farm.

After hearing the two preceding witnesses a deputation from the Klip River Agricultural Society was interviewed.

Mr. AUGUST ILLING stated that a resolution had recently been passed and transmitted to their member to the effect that they would rather this Bill stand back until after the war. The farm "Witte Klein Fontein," "Potsdam" and "Fitty Park"—now these three farms and "Paarde Voet Pad" are at the present time being occupied by white men. Mr. Stevens is on "Potsdam," "Fitty Park" Mr. Quested has been farming all along, and Dr. Schultz is putting another white man on his farm. Now, I can assure you gentlemen that "Fitty Park" and "Witte Klein Fontein" are too good to be given to natives. Why is it that these two farms have been included whilst other farms not as good as them have been excluded? Now, for thorn farms these two are good. There is "Niekerk's Kraal"—never a white man is on there; it is simply used for grazing, but of course that belongs to the Free State and the Free Staters are not touched at all. From Wessel's Nek station all the farms you may say are used as winter grazing, yet these farms which are occupied by white men, which are fenced and where the East Coast fever has been battled with, are being declared native area or being placed next to natives. I can honestly tell you that if a farmer has to farm down there next to natives his fences will be absolutely cut to pieces and I think myself when these farms are packed full of natives we won't be able to do anything down there. It seems so strange that the pick of the farms should be included. Before the last Commission, I believe, evidence was given to the effect that to the east of the Helpmakaar—Ladysmith Road—you were told that there was no land fit down there for European occupation, with the exception of "Fitty Park." Well, about three months ago I offered for "Doorn Kraal" myself 25s. an acre and the owner would not accept it. Evidence was that no land is worth more than about 10s. an acre east of the line. All these farms are good down there. I would not have made that offer if I thought otherwise and I would have been glad if it had been accepted.

By Mr. Evans.] No, I do not say that only bad land should be included in a native area; we are simply pointing this matter out to you—we are all in the dark as to the Government's intentions. But why take two farms which are absolutely fit for European occupation when other farms which are absolutely useless for European occupation, except grazing, are left out? I do not speak about my three farms in the Helpmakaar division, because the other land around there belongs to Kafirs. Where land is so situated it should go into a native area; I say nothing about it. From Wessell's Nek station right down farms are simply used for winter grazing. "Klipfontein" belongs to Joe Penworth; he is living on it now. The others are more or less occupied by white men; they are all occupied by white men, as a matter of fact. I believe there are some people ploughing on "Witkiik" and "C. D. E. F." now. There are no valuable buildings on those lands, which belong to Mr. Boshoff in the Free State. I would certainly like my land in Helpmakaar kept out of the native area. I am improving them daily. I have no valuable buildings there. I am putting up buildings, dips, etc. These farms are occupied just now by natives, who are paying rent. I am ploughing there just now.

Mr. DAN BESTER.] "Kruisfontein" belongs to Dirk Odendaal and is used for sheep grazing. These farms are no use for natives; you cannot grow anything on these farms—they are only useful for grazing. "Sterk Water" and "Lekker Water" are both Berg farms. "Winter's Hoek" belongs to Willem Odendaal; "Zaaifontein" belongs to Buys. The natives at Driefontein are some of the best people in the country. I cannot complain. These are an educated crowd and I think they occupy beneficially. They can always shift their tenants if they are crowded. There is no one on "Matiwana's Kloof," which belongs to Carbutt. "Matiwana's Kop" and adjoining farms should remain in the white area. They would revert to Europeans; any amount of people would like to buy them. There is a big area in Helpmakaar division to which natives from "Matiwana's Kop" and "Jonono" could go.

Mr. W. COCHRANE.] We want this native location to be kept back where it is now. White people have gone there and improved the land, and it is good land, suitable for European occupation. For that reason we say we do not want natives to come here. That if you find you must cut up, do so and take the whole lot of us or go back and leave us alone and let us keep the land as it is intended. Either take out the lot, preferably so, to go back, or else make the area as I mark it (to include farms marked on map with pencil, viz. "Oliphant's Kop," "Opmerkzaamheid," "Doorn Kraal," "Roosdaal" and "Pearl"). But we want to go back; we do not want a native area there at all. We prefer the total exclusion of these lands, which are the only winter grazing we have for cattle in the district. We prefer to have those farms.

Proceedings terminated at mid-day.

COPY.

"Potsdam,"
P.O. Ladysmith,
5 March, 1917.

The Secretary,
Natives' Land Committee,
Maritzburg.

Re farm "Potsdam," Klip River Division.

Sir,—As requested by your Committee when I appeared before them on March 3rd at Ladysmith, I find on going into the *actual cost* of improvements erected by me here that this farm represents a cost to me of 21s. 7d. per acre. On this cost I have made no allowance for my own personal work on these works, or yet have I allowed the amount of transfer fees when I take transfer. Further I took this farm over absolutely bare veld and as a result of this I lost by death 57 cattle in the first two years; quite half these deaths were due to the way natives had burnt the veld at all times of the year. This I have now overcome; my deaths since May last out of over 300 cattle are only four head. Up to November last (nearly 3 years) I have not had returns from the farm equal to working expenses, but from now on I have every prospect of succeeding with the property; the favourable terms of payment under which I purchased are in my favour.

There are improvements, such as clearing roughly 100 acres of thorns and ploughing, which I have not allowed for. I consider this farm to-day represents a cost to me of 25s. per acre, but I do not know of a farm similar to be bought for 35s. per acre in this division.

Should the Goverment declare this a native area, I would certainly not like to be left one white man with wife and daughter surrounded by natives, and in view of this I would be prepared to exchange this farm for a farm equal to this in a white area in this division.

As an alternative, I would sell at 30s. per acre ,the price at which I offered Chief Bandi the farm when I found this area had been placed in a native area. Bandi was on the point of buying at this price, but was advised to wait developments.

To-day the farms adjoining are under white control and the cattle are being dipped.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) T. G. B. STEVENS.

Report of Meeting held on March 15th in the Council Chamber of the Municipality of Newcastle, Natal, during the forenoon.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly.

Mr. O. SCHWIKKARD.] I have been appointed by the Ingogo Farmers' Association to interview you with regard to this recommended native area. They have passed no resolution; they have left it to my discretion to put my opinion before you. Firstly, with regard to these lands, I would like to point out that these lands in the Newcastle district are lands which I think are too important to be given to natives. I have lived in the Newcastle district now for over 30 years. It is true those lands have not much water, but to my knowledge since the war I have had three men approach me—one was Mr. A. K. Murray of Natal—representing a syndicate to start irrigation works, to dam the Buffalo River up to Boscobello. There are good facilities there for irrigation. I had a Mr. Flint, from Johannesburg, representing some Americans, and he was prepared—his syndicate were prepared under ordinary circumstances to spend a million pounds on irrigation schemes, and this was one of them. I took him over the area and he took certain levels, as far as "Blaauwbosch Laagte" and found they could get the water there. I had Mr. Stone, representing a Johannesburg syndicate, also, but the great thing was the want of confidence just then.

By Mr. Chapman.] Mr. A. K. Murray came up in 1903 or 1904; Flint about six months after, and Stone about a month after him, but the great trouble was want of confidence. They had the money and were willing to spend it. So I take it that that land in ordinary circumstances is good land. Of course, with drought any land is not up to much, but that land has had grand crops on virgin soil for the last 35 or 40 years. When there has been a failure it has been due to drought. The land along the river is specially good, and there is some land in the valleys which is second to none with irrigation, which would be wanted in droughty weather, and that is one of my chief objections.

No. 2 is this: look at the natives to-day; how do they work their land? It deteriorates under their hands. They do not work it properly, so why should land of that sort be allocated to natives who make it worse than better. As I know, at present a lot of these natives cannot keep the payments going, and in nearly every "Gazette" there are sales of execution against these natives.

By Mr. Chapman.] I was referring to the Dundee area more particularly. I was in Mr. Crook's office the other day about a farm which was in the balance, so to speak. It is owing to communal purchase. They do not know their responsibilities; they fall back in arrears and the land is eventually eaten up with lawyers' expenses. The same thing applies near Alcock's Spruit; there was one farm I thought of buying, but it cannot be bought as it is all in small pieces. There is so much expense that the native is actually losing on it. They don't know the responsibility of keeping up those payments; they think that having made one payment it is finished. That is another trouble with regard to the natives. I cannot see why the land should be allocated to them. The land is too good and can be cut up in the future. That land will be most useful for European occupation, which is bound to give the facility for irrigation; there it is—it only wants putting forward; other countries will spend it, why should not we? There will be money forthcoming when confidence is restored after the war. With reference to putting white men under native laws, look at the position; you have to offer your farm to a native, then if he declines it you have to offer it to the Government. There is no "must" on the part of the Government; that they must accept it. After that you offer it to a white man—well, what white man is going to buy that land? The whole thing is unfair. The Government is by that depreciating the value of that land and will take it over when the value has depreciated. It is not just; it is not nice; you depreciate a man's property first and then say "I will take it over at my price, practically." Then, if he does not want to sell it, he comes under native law. He cannot go to the magistrate's court; he cannot go to the judge; he has got to go to the native court. Now that is not right; you must not put the white man on the native level—it is absurd; it is detrimental to the native as well as the white man. We must keep our prestige over the native. If we lose it, where are we and where is the native? That is the great grievance, I think; that is alone enough to damn the whole thing. Here are men who have just paid their way by 20 years of hard labour and roughing it—they came there with wattle and daub places—and are these men to be turned out to place natives on it? If you want to place natives, there is lots of waste land.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, for instance take the Vryheid and Nqutu districts, and the land on the Mkuzi and the Pongolo. There are natives living there now. There are waste lands there not occupied by white men that could be used. There would not be the hardship of disowning a man from his home and all his sacred spots and handing it over to the natives. If they want locations, there is plenty of land all down the Pongolo; there is a certain amount of fever, but that will die out. There was fever in many places, but by occupation the fever disappeared, and the natives are living in worse places now than those in Zululand. On the other hand, I maintain that they have got quite enough land as it is,—if he will only be helped and instructed to use it to better advantage. It is owing to his having too much land that he moves from one spot to another and won't make up his mind to anchor down and improve his holding. At the present time a native can get places to occupy: the first man he comes to will give him land to occupy. There is no dearth of land in that way, because the natives as a whole will prefer to go and live on the farms, where they will give labour in lieu of rent, because they have a better time of it every time than in the locations. There are a number of fellow-farmers here and they will corroborate what I say. The general system in this district is that the native comes to live on your farm; you want six months labour from him during the year. Most of us pay him 10s. a month for adult labour, smaller ones in comparison. A man who knows how to work natives will not call all the natives out of that kraal at once; he will generally halve them. He ploughs for them if they have no oxen and he does not charge for that, even if they break a plough sometimes. Look at the advantages he has; he has free grazing for his stock up to a certain number; he has everything at his finger-ends; if he gets in trouble the owner nearly always helps him out of his difficulties.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is not customary to charge those people rent who work. It is quite the exception in these parts. I know of one case where they pay £1 a month and they have to pay him rent, but he has no hold on them. Natives much prefer living on the farms, because they have not the same advantage and facilities they have on the farms outside in the locations. The reasonable native has the best of times on the farms. On the other hand, I know we want locations for natives. The townsman and the miner certainly have a right to labour, and I am not against giving them locations, but give them waste lands. There are no native locations in Newcastle division. For that reason I should sympathise with the idea of giving them locations. Let the native who declines to live with the farmer go on to the location, and if the Bill was made simple in that way things would have gone all right. The simpler you make things the better it is, and especially with the land you allocate. I am sure that he will feel that he is unsettled and uncertain there; that it is only a matter of time before the lands have to be expropriated from them—he would not feel that he was settled. That is certainly unsettlement and I think you must agree with those facilities for irrigation on those lots, they are bound to be expropriated; it is only a matter of a few years.

By Mr. Chapman.] They have that land; "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander"—if you are going to expropriate the white man's lands, expropriate the native's lands; let him sell as he can, and it is my opinion that it will only be a few

years before most of them have sold out. They won't be able to hold it. The present method is simply opening the door for swindling amongst themselves; at Alcock's Spruit there is one who is smart and trying to do the whole lot. "Crane Valley" is going the same way, by driblets, and they will have nothing; they will be dispossessed without anything. Natives in this district are put on a higher level than the white man. Your child and my child are not of age until they are 21 and the native is of age when he is 16, and that has a lot to do with this sort of thing. The parent depends on his children to help him, but after he is 16 he has no authority over him and he goes on his own. One cannot imagine that a sane man can go on these lines; it has put the natives on a higher lever than the white man. Part of the Bill is good, but the most of it is very bad because there is too much in the way of politics in the whole thing. My own impression of the whole Bill is that it is simply to penalise Natal and stop immigration. Politics have been brought too much into the Bill. On the other hand,I maintain that sooner than push this thing now we should leave it until after the war. Our minds are not normal now and there is no doubt that we want the full assistance of our fellow Dutch colonists to work with the natives—they know how to do it.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think it should be shelved until after the war—until our minds become normal. We want the full assistance of our Dutch fellow colonists to put the Bill through. They know how to do it; they do not bring so much sentiment to play as we do and their minds as well as ours are not normal to-day. Even with the natives, they cannot understand it; they say why not finish one thing first and then go on.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think that temporarily they should make provision in this way; in those areas where there is objection they should not be allowed to buy there, but in other districts where there is no objection they could buy. In divisions like the Ngotshe and Vryheid there would be least sacrifice. I would value unimproved farms here at from £1 to 30s. an acre for the bare land. Some of it will go to £3. As a rule the land in the recommended area is, if anything, wetter than Newcastle. In normal seasons a lot of those valleys there were vleis and you could not ride through.

Mr. A. GARSTANG.] I have been asked, gentlemen, to represent before you particularly the Chamber of Commerce in Newcastle, and secondly to speak on behalf of the Town Council, so that whatever I may have to say will deal largely with the question as it affects the township from a mercantile point of view. I do not want to transgress and go over all the great schemes that the Government have in hand. The first thing I would like to call your attention to, gentlemen, is a document which has been signed by far the greater portion of the people owning farms in this proposed area, which I will read to you (copy annexed hereto). It is the outcome of a suggestion made in connection with this matter in the Chamber of Commerce and when the suggestion was made it was passed on to the farmers and they entirely fell in with the idea and carried it out themselves. I think that will give you some idea of the position which has been taken up by the farmers themselves in this area. It requires no illustration on my part—no demonstration whatever. In speaking of this matter from the standpoint of the mercantile welfare of the town and from the standpoint of the council, which is involved, I would like to point out first of all that perhaps this district does not appear so prominently quite as it might have done had it not been for the restrictions under which we have been labouring for some time past. The tick fever regulations have very drastically interfered with progress on the farms generally, and in this district we have suffered very much indeed from that cause. Much of the trade of Newcastle has been diverted as a direct result of these tick fever regulations and the outside districts have benefited—for instance: I would point out to Dannhauser, where the trade in that place has grown enormously at the expense of our customers, who have been prevented from coming into this town and have concentrated in that particular neighbourhood. What applies to Dannhauser applies also to other outside stores where they are able to deal and conduct their business. In the area referred to, as proposed to be set aside as a native area, this has not taken the same effect, because there was no district to which they could largely be driven; this is the nearest centre for trade, and although in some cases some men may have gone over to Dundee and over to Dannhauser, yet largely that centre has been less affected than any other part of the Newcastle district. We feel, gentlemen, that if the suggestion is carried out and if this district is proclaimed a native area it will be a further detriment to Newcastle from the mercantile point of view—a very definite one, because these men feel that under the conditions of the Act now before the Union they could not possibly remain in those districts, and then the trade of Newcastle is interfered with to a very large extent indeed and we should suffer very materially from that particular point of view.

Mr. Evans.] The trade of the town would receive a larger impetus and would be benefited more if the area is occupied by whites than wholly by natives?

Mr. Garstang.] Certainly, that is the position; that European farmers are of more direct value to us. I quite agree that with natives the number would be increased, but the number would not benefit to the same extent. The smaller number of Europeans would benefit the town to a larger extent than the large number of natives. There are four Indian stores (there are really 5—one native licence, a small thing) there and they are catering

SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

for the native trade; they would remain there and do the business. That class of trader would increase in that particular district and we fear that that would certainly be a great detriment to Newcastle. Another position taken up by the town is that this district which is proposed to be laid out as a native area is isolated. It is composed of 130,000 acres, with Dundee together, and that is distinctly an isolated district; it does not touch any other proclaimed native area at all, and we look upon that as also being a detriment to the interests, from a moral standpoint, and the welfare of Newcastle. In its isolated nature it would affect so many other European farms surrounding it that they also might be led to retire. For instance, I have heard of one man who is a most prominent farmer in this district who said his farm would be worthless to him now. He reaps 2,500 bags of mealies from lands he has ploughed; I refer to Mr. Thompson. His conviction is that his land would deteriorate if he were next to a native location on account of the difficulty of dealing with these natives as a mass. We have the same difficulty to-day in that we are inter-mingled, but if this is proclaimed a native area and the white people were removed the difficulty would be intensified. I use Mr. Thompson as an illustration because he is such a prominent cultivator and is an example to everyone in the district in that respect. I really overlooked one point in dealing with the effect upon the mercantile welfare of the town. I ought to have given you some statistics; I have taken the trouble of getting a rough return of their crops and all their incomes from several sources. There are 12 farmers who are principally on the northern part of that area and they ranged last year from 100 to 600 bags of melies—the average would run out well over 400 bags per farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] The average size of the farms would be a little more than 1,000 acres. These farms have been occupied for some years and some of the farmers did not have large returns. The one with 100 bags only is a sheep farmer and his return of wool is 17 bales. Mr. Kemp also has 20 bales of wool, and Mr. Potgieter has 200 bags of mealies and 21 bales of wool. Taking the position of these farmers all round and coupling it together with their dairy work (the average monthly cheque for cream runs out at about £9 10s. a month; they range from £16 down to £5) these people are making use of their farms. From our own personal knowledge of the position, the improvement and advance being made by these people is very marked during the last 3 or 4 years particularly. Since creameries came into vogue there has been a very marked improvement and the spending power of these farmers is being increased rapidly. That is the aspect we look at; we feel that the welfare of Newcastle will be interfered with to that degree, because we have not any more to fall back upon. We depend upon the farmers for our returns; we are a community of shop-keepers. We are on the edge of the coalfield and have only one field, which is practically worked out, and the Farleigh Colliery with a small return, so that we are dependent on the farming community. We do not desire that the natives should not have land given to them; we recognise that they must have, but we feel that as regards this district it has not been rightly applied. It has been applied most unjustly.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not know of any land available in this district of Newcastle. The only Crown Lands of any size is that piece on the Salt Lake. I believe there are some lands underneath the Berg, but they really are of no great value and you cannot look upon them as being fitted for native occupation. I do not think we have any large acreage in the Newcastle division that we should recommend as a suitable place. Although you notice there are native-owned farms here, they are mostly in the southern part. There are 56 farms included—36 are European owned and 20 native owned in the Newcastle portion of this area. The publication of that evidence (the magistrate's) was the first intimation we had of what had really taken place, and the moment we found out we set to work and this is the document which entirely and absolutely contradicts that statement made by the magistrate.

Mr. JOHN PARKS.] I have lived here 50 years, come next year, and I believe I know the division of Newcastle as well if not better, than any other man. I have been on most of the farms; I was Deputy Sheriff and Messenger of the Court when the division ran from Volksrust to Helpmakaar. I have been on most of the farms as auctioneer and general agent. I am also well known to the natives and I know their requirements. The natives to-day are contented, but there is a certain amount of uneasiness going on; there is pin-pricking and I think the Government is the cause of it. I fought hard—and many gentlemen here can say so—for many years outside of Parliament and inside to have these lands thrown open on the 20 years instalment system, and it was carried. These men have lived on these farms 20 years—some have hardly paid the 20th instalment—and no compensation whatever you could pay these men would repay them for leaving their farms. Why that portion was taken I don't know. My own opinion is that not an inch of land in Natal should be taken over for native reserves, and if so a movement be put on foot to secede from the Union. I give you gentlemen this as the general opinion of the division. They will not have their land taken away from them for a native reserve. I think that the Government should immediately suspend the Act they passed in 1913, for it has become an act of slavery. It is impossible for men to find farms to go on, and of recent years the native is quite a different being from the native of 30 years ago. They all wear clothes and they have sewing machines. On a farm owned by me I have butchers, bakers, coachmen, grooms, shoemakers, dressmakers—men not accustomed to farming at all. If they come in now they are told by the magistrate "Go and find a farm to live

on." It is pitiful during the winter months looking for a farm to live on; they are willing to pay rent. The farmer's wage is 10s. a month—why, it won't buy the wife's clothes! My headman has his father and mother and three little children; he is a man who works and I give him £2 a month and he pays rent. It is absolutely necessary that that Act should be suspended at once. They are not all farm labourers. One of them, a coachman, said "How can you expect me to live on 25s. a month when I get £5 a month in Johannesburg." I say leave well alone; they are satisfied. If there is a native area where is the labour for the district to come from? I can locate every boy on my farm, that is where they work. They are not farmers; it is an industrial population. Yes, my natives pay rent—£3 a hut. Those who work I pay a good wage—from £1 to £2 per month. Let them sell their labour to the best advantage. It is the only reasonable way a man can think the thing out. The native should be left alone.

By Mr. Evans.] My recommendation is that things should revert to as they were. Not an inch of land should ever be given to native locations; if so, a movement be set on foot to secede from the Union. Those farms should not be interfered with. They are better for white men than natives.

Mr. A. Garstang.] In whatever was said in connection with the representations made from the council and the Chamber of Commerce, that we did not feel any necessity for recommending that these lands owned by natives should be taken from them—that is not the position at all; we would like to have them remain as they are. We would like to suggest that the same principle be applied here as at Thaba 'Nchu. We would like this district proclaimed in the same way.

Mr. WALTER STEIN.] I would like to repudiate altogether the evidence in the Blue Book. Our magistrate, during the 11 years I have had "Fair Breeze" has never once been near it. I have never seen the magistrate and I believe he has never been in the district beyond "Golagh." He has never had any communication with us in the way of asking such a question. Again, Adendorff lives 22 miles away from the area. Mr. Sydney Reynolds is a butcher, and for any Commission to take the evidence of these three men and take our farms away is the height of folly. If that Commission had done its common duty they should have turned to the magistrate and said "Where are the people who are living on these farms"? As for Mr. Schwikkard's evidence, gentlemen, I agree with it altogether. He said he put the value of unimproved land at from 20s. to 30s. The unimproved value of Kafir lands for wasting them for 20 years is still 27s. One was sold at £2 3s., one at £2, and the rest at 25s. to 27s.; that is the unimproved or wasted value of 20 years. I want to bring before you that none of us will sell at absolutely any price. Our farms are bought for our children. There is not one of us who was not a boy in those days and we are getting something else now. These farms were bought for our children. When I was getting my farm my wife never asked for a stick of furniture while the bond was over us; the bond goes off this year, and that is how our farms have been slaved for. Twenty years ago when I came here I spent the night with Mr. Dicks. His whole family was round him and most of them have farms to-day. How can those boys sell their fathers' farms, and to tell us it is for the benefit of the native! Gentlemen, if it is for the benefit of the native I stand on my title-deeds. Mr. Botha told us in his speech that there were 180,000 morgen of native-owned land inside white areas against 300,000 morgen of European owned land in the native area, and he recommends an exchange. Who is going to exchange our improved farms for the wastings of 20 years? Gentlemen, I won't have an exchange for any money. Our cream, our cattle, our sheep, do well; is there one penny-worth of cream sent away by natives? They only sell a beast when the policeman is on their heels. The Government has given us good roads; we fought for 16 years in this district before we got one penny spent on our roads. Now we have a chance of getting our produce to market. It was two days' trek to Dundee; now we do it in one day. We have the railway here; there are three sidings to take away all our produce. If this is made into a native location what are you going to put on at those sidings? Is the railway from the time it crosses the Buffalo to the time it reaches Newcastle to be a white elephant for the Government? Gentlemen, on the Newcastle area nearly everyone has their borehole; several of them have windmills. On one farm, Mr. Will Dicks, there are six dams, the farm is fenced into six paddocks—what earthly value is that to a native? Is the Government prepared to pay out cash value for this, compensation for what you may call the asset value of the business, and then let the native walk in and cut it to pieces? Let Government buy up bondholders and cut that land up for natives and put on as many supervisors as they like; then see if they can get sufficient to pay the rents. If the Government does the same for the natives as they have done at Winterton, then there will be no hardship. Why launch out in a thing which will cost us millions of money if it is to be for an experiment? They have had locations for the past 70 years upon which they could experiment. I do not say as regards this district. I say let Government buy any farm as it comes in the market; cut it up for the natives, and when the war is finished they can say "Here is our return from the Government farm." We say "Leave us alone; if you want a native area have one in your native locations, but leave us alone and let the white owned land in Natal stand." General Botha has gone back in his position when he has withdrawn the north coast. We have put our 20 years' develop-

ment in here and now comes this Bill and says "You voetzak." At the end of another seven years it will be yours, Mr. Chapman.

Mr. H. J. NIEUWENHUIZEN (interpreted).] I am not one of the original purchasers. I have had my ground for 7 years on the 20 years system. The land purchased by the Europeans, so far as I know, has all been paid for. The large majority of the native lands have all been paid for. The law comes and says I must sell my land to the natives. I can stay if I like, but the conditions are unbearable. I want to know from the Commission to-day if the Government gives them 20 years to pay for the farm and if they have not paid for them then what length of time must I give them to pay for it.

No man can give terms for 20 years. The people on the flats spend their money to stay there and not to throw it away. I can advertise my land for three months and if there is no native to buy it I can make application at my own expense; then the Governor-General can allow me to sell it to a European. What white man would buy it? I bought the land and worked hard on it. I am known throughout the Union, from Capetown right into Rhodesia, and I would challenge the Government to show me any spot where 30 or 40 people would make the same living as they are doing on the Flats. I have put up boreholes and a windmill; Mr. Chapman has seen it. I have proved that I can grow any grain there. I sowed wheat there last year. The land does not show to-day what it is capable of doing, but it would in future if it is under European occupation. The land is as suitable for stock and agriculture as any that I know in the Union. The question is: is the country as a whole not going to suffer if this land is allocated to natives? Our town will suffer from that; it has a great trade with that district. I deny the allegations in the report that this land is mostly under native offer. There may be a few farms which are under native offer, but not the majority. It does not only affect me, but the adjoining farmers; it will diminish the value of their land. Some people say that when there is a native location you can easily get labour. Others again say that when you have a native location thefts increase, beer drinks on Sundays will take place, and you will not be able to keep your servants. They will also move from your farms to these locations. My natives say that they would rather live on a white man's farm because they get good arable land and their stock is in good condition. I want the natives to be looked after, but I am against land which has a splendid future being given to them.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have a little over 1,200 acres altogether. No, I would not sell it; I want to live on it. As I have said before, I have travelled throughout the Union and I have not struck ground which was as good as this. It has been reported that this land is worth from £1 to 30s., but I could not get other ground as suitable at that price. As an experiment I planted half a bag of wheat and it did well. I planted it on two pieces of land; the first was two erven. I reaped 4 bags under irrigation. I have not tried it on dry land. I have got between 6 and 7 bags of mealies per acre without fertiliser. I cannot say what I actually got, but between 8 and 9 bags with fertilizer. I do not believe that there is better grazing in winter for sheep than the Buffalo Flats. There are a few farmers who have inoculated their sheep and they do well. I would do the same, too, but I trek with my sheep so as to save my farm for the winter grazing.

Mr. C. J. UYS (interpreted).]I have not much to say, but I can see you gentlemen look as if you have plenty of common-sense and it looks as if you have worked hard in your time. The Government advertised the land; we came and purchased after looking at the farms. There was no talk in those days that the Government wanted to halter us below the knee, but we bought the land to live on it. I understand you have been round to see it. I am not, of course, wedded to my land. If I get an exceptional offer I part with it. It is a wrong principle to make little locations dotted about all over the country, seeing that there is a large tract of country suitable for natives still vacant. If the Government wishes to make a location for the natives let them add on to the existing locations and not have these little locations dotted about. Whatever produce we reap on these farms we sell to the European storekeepers or traders. The native population living in the district dispose of their produce to the Indian storekeepers; their money does not stay in the land but is going out to India. I cannot see why the Government should take such wrong steps to dot about these unpayable small locations.

By Mr. Chapman.] I consider my farm to-day is not worth less than £5,000. It would be somewhere near £4 an acre. There is a portion of Emtonjaneni district (in Zululand) usitable for a native area.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I am against small locations dotted about the country. Although my farm is surrounded by native farms they are not native locations; the natives are too few to be of any danger.

By Mr. Chapman.] My natives have left me because they are too lazy to work when I require their services and they have moved over to these "kolwas." Regarding the growing of wheat on dry lands, it might in a few instances be a success but generally the land is so suitable for mealies that it is not worth the trouble to go in for wheat on dry land. It would grow under irrigation as well as any place in Natal, and I consider the best place is on the Sunday's River. Over thirty years ago there was not so much energy expended in agriculture as there is to-day, and in another 30 to 40 years' time I prophesy that stock farming will have to be put aside and agriculture gone in for. If the land is occupied by Europeans then the produce will go to the markets of the world. I reap an average of

5 bags of mealies without fertiliser. If the rainfall is not worse than now it is good for mealie growing.

Mr. R. S. MILLER.] The Committee know my views. I am against any appropriation of the area for the natives. You have been over the ground with me and do not need any further remarks.

The meeting terminated at about 1 p.m.

Report of Meeting with Natives of Newcastle Division, held in Magistrate's Court Room, Newcastle, during afternoon of March 15th, 1917.

Mr. Chapman made the usual introductory address to the assembly.

PHILIP MTEMBU.] Gentlemen, I am glad that I have the opportunity of speaking in your presence. I have been requested by the congress to speak. I am chairman of the Newcastle branch of the Native National Congress. Last Saturday we held a meeting at a place called "The Gardens," near Alcock's Spruit. We held the meeting to discuss seeing you to-day with reference to this matter and I am voicing the opinion of all those natives who were present at that meeting. We have as an Association continually opposed that Act of 1913 and we sent a deputation to England. At that time we expressed our opinion that we opposed the Natives Land Act because we saw certain points in that Act which did not fall in with our views, because in that Act we were suffering to a certain degree in that we were forbidden to purchase land. We like the old Act, which we call the "Queen Victoria Act" which said there should be equal rights; that law which was made by our beloved Sovereign we all liked. We now say that it is being cancelled at present. The Act, as I mentioned, with which we do not agree is this 1913 Act. I was also deputed to speak on behalf of the natives at the meeting held at Dundee on this matter. At that meeting I expressed the views of the natives; they were all opposed to this Act. I am glad to be able to express before you gentlemen that we do not like this Act; it brings about much trouble and ill-feeling, but amongst the native population and the white population. We do not like the idea that we are to be separated and placed on one side and the whites on the other side—we think we are children of the same family. It was apparent to us at the very beginning that such an Act would bring about bad feeling and trouble. Whenever a European happened to come over to our side we would naturally wonder what he wanted there; likewise the European section would like to know what the natives wanted on their side. I was present at a meeting we had at Pretoria on the 16th of last month. There it was decided to forward our resolution to the Government, which we did, stating that we were afraid and that we did not like this new law. We petitioned the Government that this Act called the Natives' Land Act of 1917 should be suspended for a year after the war. At the present time while our King is fighting we do not like it that laws should be made, it might have a disturbing effect. As it is, there are natives at the present time in German East and West and in France, and we do not like the idea, while some of our members are fighting, that such laws should be made which would scatter them like goats. We therefore ask you gentlemen that this Act of 1917 be suspended and that the Act of 1913 be repealed. (It is explained to him that the Prime Minister has said that the Bill is to be suspended for a year). I am glad to hear that, Sir, but the Act of 1913 had such an effect on the natives—they shifted about considerably as a result of that Act. Although I am glad to hear that the Prime Minister has said this Bill will be suspended for about a year, still we have not that confidence in our Government, because they sometimes promise us a thing and it is not fulfilled, which gives us considerable trouble. We were told in the Bill of 1917 that if a native wanted to purchase land from a European he would get the Governor-General's permission first. I am sorry to state that in this division there was a European willing to sell his farm, called "Last Attempt," to two natives. The natives made application to Government, but the application was refused. Another native who had a store was anxious to sell his farm to another whose race was not native, and his application was also refused. Through these applications all these natives incurred considerable expense and were plunged into trouble and debt. Except for the Act of 1913 these natives would not have got into this trouble. Before I stop addressing you gentlemen I wish to impress upon you again that from the very start we never wished this law to take effect. We were satisfied to remain as we were before. There was an understanding between us and the Government that anyone who was in trouble would be given a place to reside on but not be forced over to reside on a certain spot. If Government intends making a law we are always pleased to see them interview the natives first and get their views before passing any Act. If Government before passing that Act of 1913 had asked our views on the point we would have told them and there would have been no need of passing it, as it brings difficulties both to the Europeans and the natives. I thank you very much, gentlemen, for the opportunity given me to address you.

IZAAK MABASO.] I do not wish to be long in my address, gentlemen, as the last

speaker has practically said everything about this matter. We natives have been wondering what has come over us—to wonder why we are handled in the way in which we are. Why are we to be forced into the position we do not like to be put in? We have even gone so far as to send delegates to Europe to say that we do not like this Act. One point also that we do not like at all is that separate magistrates' courts will be established to try our cases separately. Why are we to be placed in a dark room and be separated from the others? The other point is that already referred to by Mtembu about purchasing lands. Are we expected to buy farms in the crowds? Mtembu has really said everything I want to say, but what about those natives who have already acquired lands or farms; what is going to happen to them? This is just a question I put to you; I put it to the Commission at Dundee and it was explained to us. (Mr. Chapman explained the position.) We support Mtembu's statement and we also wish that this Bill should be suspended for a year after the war, as we are very much afraid of it. You Europeans have come over the sea; you force us to go under the bridge, whereas you cross on top. You are sitting on us. For instance, even concerning beer; we are prohibited from dealing in and making money with beer, and now we are being stopped from purchasing land. That is our complaint, Sir. We ask you again that we wish to have the same law as was passed during the reign of Queen Victoria—that there should be one law for us all. I thank you, gentlemen, for allowing me to express the views of these natives.

Philip Mtembu.] Touching the native area in Newcastle—I intentionally left it out. My object in not mentioning about the native area is because we natives in the Newcastle division think that although, of course, it would benefit us to get these farms. I would not mention the whole population, more especially our friends in the Cape Colony they are not given land, or are given barren land, and in the Transvaal most of the land is in feverish places. On account of that we simply condemned the whole thing, because it would not benefit the whole community.

ROBERT KUMALO.] Speaking on behalf of the natives of Newcastle, we touch on the Act of 1913 and the Bill of 1917, with which we do not agree. These Acts will bring about trouble and hardship upon us we cannot agree with, as we are under the same Government. We wish to impress upon you gentlemen that these Acts are contrary to the Acts which were passed during the reign of Queen Victoria. We are before you gentlemen and we repeat that we do not like these laws, which place us in a very difficult position and cause trouble, and we ask you therefore to study our interest in connection with these laws which we do not like. They contain bad points—it would appear that Government no longer wanted natives on the face of the earth. The manner of native living does not permit of close contact as in the case of Europeans, and therefore we say that we have entered into a time of trouble. We are like pigs shut up in a sty. We are treated practically as slaves. Therefore, gentlemen, we ask you to study our interests as they were studied during the reign of Queen Victoria for the welfare of the country and ourselves.

By Mr. Chapman.] Regarding discussion of the native area here, I am of the same opinion as Mtembu; the last speaker.

GEORGE NCAMU.] Gentlemen, I have been appointed to speak on behalf of the Congress. I am voicing the opinions expressed by my friends, the foregoing speakers; what they have said I agree with. We can see this law was made by slim men because it misleads us in many ways and we do not understand it. We natives live in Natal under various conditions and we feel for each other. If one section is not treated well the others feel for them. Some may receive good portions of the country, whereas others may not, and therefore we could not feel easy if we felt that our brothers were not faring equally well as we are. We have seen Mr. Giles, who is away at the present time, because we live close by in Lennoxton. We were living there when the Act of 1913 was passed and the Europeans living at Lennoxton helped many natives and deputed men to meet the Commission which then sat at Dundee, but we deputed no one as we were not aware we could do so. It came upon us unexpectedly—by rumour we heard we were to be removed out of Lennoxton, but when we heard there were men coming to Newcastle we thought we should not lose this opportunity of expressing our views, otherwise the Commission might think there were no natives living at Lennoxton. There are many natives who have acquired land there; we are more than 50. They have erected good buildings and they look after them because they are close to the village. When we saw the magistrate of this division he advised us to see this Commission and put our position before them in regard to this Natives Land Act. The magistrate asked me to produce these Deeds of Transfer to the Commission so that they may have an idea of what the locality is. (The position under the Bill is explained to witness.)

J. P. P. VANDERPLANK (a half-caste).] Honourable Sirs! At a meeting held in Gardiner Street we unanimously said we will repeat the same words which we said when John Dube went to England: that we do not like this Land Bill of 1913 and we again in this day humbly repeat the same—that we do not like this Land Bill of 1917 and we most respectfully request His Excellency the Governor-General and his Honourable Ministers to abolish this law and administer justice to us with impartiality as in the days of Queen Victoria. It is difficult to see on what principle this Act has been specially chosen to exclude us natives. Honourable Chairman, that this applica-

tion may be favourably considered. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your humble and obedient servant.

Izaak Mabaso.] We cannot express our views about the native areas here; there is someone who prevents us from doing so, because the country is full of us and we do not see why we should be separated at all. As Robert Kumalo says, it is equivalent to being confined like pigs in a pigsty. I have made a list of the farms which it is said would be given to the natives and we came to the conclusion that was putting us in a corner and therefore we cannot speak.

PAULUS MTOMBENI.] Concerning this area in this Division, we do not want it. The idea is to separate us from the Europeans, but at the present time we are living satisfactorily with them. The Europeans have nothing against us. We treated them well; they grew up under us and we are living peacefully under them. I repeat again we do not want this area. I live in this area on "Suspense."

ESAU KUMALO.] I reside on the farm "Greenock" which is in this recommended area on the Buffalo. I am glad to see you gentlemen have come here in connection with this matter. I understand our views are only required touching upon this particular area. We are living amongst the Europeans at the present time and there is nothing to be complained about. If there was such a thing as dissatisfaction, my Magistrate would have been told about it in the first instance. It is like a hen with chickens—if she lifts her wings up the chickens run away and so the hawk easily captures them. I was of the opinion that the Government was still looking after our interests and protecting us.

JOEL MADUNA.] I live on "The Gardens" at Alcock's Spruit. Are there no natives living on those farms, Sir, at present? There is a dense native population on this area, so if natives from farms outside are taken there how will they exist? Why is the Government anxious to separate the Europeans from the natives? I would really like to know what crime we have committed which induces Government to take this step to separate us from the whites. I wish you to represent our views before Government that we would like to remain where we are and not made to go on these demarcated lands. If Government is going to give us locations it means chasing us away, even from the railway lines, so that if we cross farms to go to the nearest railway station we shall be hit by the landlords. We do not want a native area in the Newcastle Division.

ROOIBAAJE NDHLOVU.] The Basuto section have requested me to come and listen here, and ask what have they done that they should be separated from the white population; to bring back the answer and tell them the crime which they have committed for which they are separated. The Basutos here took part in the Boer War and through the Zulu War I stood for the English, so what is the reason they are driven now off their farms. At the present time there are numbers of them in Queen Victoria's country and they wish this matter to be delayed until after the war, with which the King is now fully occupied.

SIMON NKOSI.] Gentlemen, you know the acreage of this country and what has been allocated to the Newcastle Division. You have been all over Natal and know the locations. The natives are not satisfied. The proposed area in Newcastle is a good area, but it is a small mouthful. The natives are very numerous; they would die there. There are too many for the size of the location. You might have enlarged that area three times.

IRVINE MATSHOBONGWANA (a Xosa).] Honourable Sirs! We ask you to be very, very patient with this native community to-day. Now, speaking as the Secretary of the South African Native Congress, Newcastle Branch, I have been to all the meetings taking notes of what the complaints were. The people are totally against the Bill of 1917. As regards the particular question you have come here about: it is not mental arithmetic, but written arithmetic. It is far beyond these people to-day to solve such a hard problem. It is far beyond their knowledge and understanding. The time has been very short for them to consider what to say before you. The land given to Newcastle District is not wide enough, but we do not want to discuss the land question because we are afraid lest the Government says we spoke on the land given to us. It is not because they refuse insolently or rudely, but only humbly. The land in this district is all right but it is small—there are ever so many people living on those farms now. It is very hard for us to speak on this point, although we understand you want to help us, because we speak as a native race, not only as Newcastle people. We consider the whole and are afraid to say anything here when we are not satisfied in other parts.

PHILEMON NXUMALO.] I am glad to hear your views. I am one of the purchasers who has bought land in this area, at "Jobstown," which I understand falls within the area, and would like to know my position. (This is explained to him.) Is it the intention of the Government to find farms or places for native chiefs, because as it is at present the native chiefs live right up against the Berg? Has the Government wakened up to the fact that the native chiefs are scattered about groundless, and are now acquiring ground to remedy this? The thing which troubled us was the rumour that small pieces of land would

be parcelled out to natives, causing a dense population with no room for cultivation or grazing. The Act has its bright side as well as its dark side. All the chiefs in this division have no places to live on; they are driven about from pillar to post.

Chief NKABANA.] The view has already been expressed by other speakers that it would not be advisable to collect natives in large numbers and put them on a small area. The natives do not like the idea that they may be collected together as a flock of goats. A white man should pay a native his price for his farm. Government should protect a native who has been done out of his farm and see he gets his money back. I have already represented to Government the objection of the natives to being congregated too thickly. I pointed out that they would die if they were placed together in large numbers and the question was "What would kill them"? I told the Government that diarrhoea and fever would be responsible. We have goats and we cultivate lands—therefore we cannot live in very large numbers on a small area.

JOSEPH NDIMANDE.] I am glad to see you here and have a small word to say. The men who have spoken are my juniors by far, except the last speaker. We grew up under you. I am glad that the young men who spoke did not touch on the area here, because we feel as if the Government are throwing us away. Up to the present we had no complaints at all. We are anxious to live with you and remain under Government. It is for you to see that Nkabana or anyone else has a suitable place to live in without passing a law about it. We understand, gentlemen, you are not here making laws, but we hope that Government will take pity on us and see that this Act is not passed.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly before dispersal.

COPY.

We, the undersigned farmers who are owners or occupiers of farms within the area in the Newcastle district which the Native Lands Commission has recommended to be laid off as a native area, wish to state:

1. That we understand an area which appears to be in the same neighbourhood as the area recommended by the Native Lands Commission was recommended to that Commission by the magistrate, Newcastle division.

2. We never had any intimation of any kind before the Commission sat at Dundee to take evidence, that there was any suggestion that our farms or any of them should be included in a native area. In fact, not one of us knew that our farms had been recommended as a portion of such area until after the Commission's report was published.

3. We desire to record our united protest against any recommendation which vitally affects our interests having been made without notice to us of the fact and without an opportunity having been given to each one of us by notice to have lodged our objection to the inclusion of our farms before the Commission when it sat at Dundee.

4. We wish unitedly to protest now in the strongest manner against our farms being included in the proposed native area. We regard them as some of the very best farms in the whole district. Most of us have spent years of labour and large sums of money on improvements to our farms. They have not been and are not under offer to natives. We do not desire to sell or dispose of our farms. It is our intention to remain on them.

5. It will be quite impossible for us to remain on our farms if they are included in the native area under such conditions as are proposed in the Bill to carry into effect the recommendations of the Native Lands Commission and we unitedly request that our farms may be excluded from such native area and may remain portions of a non-native area as heretofore.

Four copies of the above petition were handed in—3 in English and 1 in Dutch—bearing the signatures of 46 farmers, mostly owners, in the recommended native area.

Report of meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Dundee, Natal, on 16th March, 1917.

Mr. Chapman made the usual introductory address to the assembly.

Mr. H. RYLEY.] Gentlemen of the Committee! As President of the Dundee Agricultural Society I was asked to interview you and introduce this deputation. We have prepared a list of the names to hand to you and we have given the order in which we suggest they should be heard—I think I might pass this along to you. I understand, apart from the Agricultural Society, the settlement at Waschbank sent Mr. Manuel and Mr. Saville. I would like to explain that we have agreed that certain gentlemen will speak more particularly upon certain things; for instance, with reference to the Buffalo lands there are mineral conditions which should weigh with the setting apart of those lands, and they are competent to speak upon that.

Mr. WALTER STEIN.] My first duty is to our agricultural society and the other points I am asked to bring out are -first: the depreciation of land values owing to the Bill. The land value, the unimproved land value of these farms—or rather, the wasted land values of these farms—has been proved by the sales of the last few weeks at anything from 27s. to 30s. an acre. Now that is the unimproved wasted value of the land; you have seen for yourselves that the land is practically ploughed from one end to the other. Now the Master of the Supreme Court has valued the farm "Miller" at £2 as the unimproved value. "Miller" adjoins these lands and it means that the owner of that farm and the owners of the other adjoining lands will have to take the unimproved value of 25s. to 27s. Only this last week have farms been sold at about these figures, as you will see from the list I have put in. Now that depreciation rests very seriously on the owner of these adjoining properties. It not only rests seriously on them, but on the Government, because if the death duty is valued at 25s. the loss to the Government is considerable. The next question I am asked to mention is the serious loss of revenue which will ensue if natives replace Europeans in this district. We have our railways carrying tons and tons of fertilisers to that district; there is not a single white farmer who does not use fertiliser, and until such time as the native is sufficiently educated to pay for it and to use it properly there will be no transport for the railway. For native implements one single-furrow plough will serve one, two, or three kraals, even where there are brothers and sisters ploughing; the whole of the native implements of the district could be carried in the tail end of a truck. All that is revenue; all that is revenue at the port; all that is revenue to the importing merchant and the distributing merchant, and all that carries duty and railway carriage on it—it is all absolutely lost if you make that a native area. There is cream, as well as cattle, sheep, wool; what can the natives do to keep that railway going? They can send it absolutely nothing and will not for many, many years to come. Then a very important matter is the total loss of improvements on our European farms. They would be absolutely a curse to the native. Take such a farm as my own, which is well fenced; it is paddocked into 11 paddocks; the outside boundary would be the only bit which would be left in a very short time. What earthly value is that to the State? It is of no value. Instead of being an improvement by putting these natives here you are taking away all the revenue which you are drawing from the white man. Take our trees; what are they fit for—are they fit for the Kafirs? When I planted my first row of trees my Kafir said: "Baas, you will lose all your trade if you plant trees there." He said "The detectives will come and won't let the intombazanas go to the store." Now these are our educated gentlemen of to-day and those who are going to buy our farms. When the wood is big enough for the fire, into the fire it will go; the rest will be eaten by the goats. You yourselves saw the farm "Peach Hill"; for ten years natives have ploughed on the opposite bank and for the last three years they have been starving—not got their seed back hardly. They have shifted this year; they will get a crop, also next year, but the following years they will go down again. Now, where is there any encouragement? I ask you, gentlemen, to declare that on the whole of the Buffalo Flats you did not find one pennyworth of improvement worth calling an improvement; on these 80,000 acres you did not find £500 worth of improvement on all these native farms, bar the fencing, which is not paid for. I would like to repudiate absolutely the evidence given before the Commission by our late magistrate, Mr. J. W. Cross. J. W. Cross to my knowledge has never entered the district. The evidence is given by L. A. Crosse, who says that he knows nothing about the district, but he finds in his predecessor's report (who was J. W. Cross) that the district was a very good place to put Kafirs into. Gentlemen, that magistrate never called one of us in; he knew the Commission was coming and he knew we were all there. He came out to within four miles of the district and preached to Kafirs on Sunday, but he never dared to darken our door and tell us the Commission was coming. We of the Buffalo Flats absolutely repudiate any such evidence as such a man gave. Of the European-owned farms in this corner there are seven. Three of them are very valuable for minerals, but someone else will deal with this. As to the farm "Blaauwbank," gentlemen, on that farm you found the finest mealies that you have seen in the whole countryside—unless, perhaps, a selected piece on Mr. Thompson's farm—you never saw anything equal to it. That farm is owned by an ex-Government servant—Wiltshire. His son is in Egypt; he was wounded in the Dardenelles and is back in Egypt. That is his farm; it is his farm you are going to take away. When he comes back he shall be told "That is your reward; clear out we have given it to the Kafirs." Now, gentlemen, I want to put on evidence my Title Deeds. I stand on those title deeds and I want that in evidence, Mr. Evans. I claim, gentlemen, that no power of any Parliament has the right to sit in Capetown and start cutting this from under my feet. Gentlemen, on these title deeds I stand, and before I sit down I ask you to register these title deeds and demand my rights when you come to the Government. My right is there for my heirs and my assignees, but not for the Government's assignees.

Mr. P. R. VERMAAK (interpreted).] Gentlemen of the Committee! In the first place I wish you to understand that I have no interest so far as the Bill is concerned which is being discussed to-day. It does not concern me in the least, as my land does not touch the affected area. It is in the interests of the public that I wish to express

my opinion in that connection. It is not my intention to discuss any point in detail, but I just wish to make a general reference. In my opinion it is a great injustice as far as the white population is concerned to accept the recommendations of the Commission, and more so so far as the natives are concerned. A greater injustice cannot be done the natives than to accept the report of the Commission and force the natives into locations. In my reasons for saying so I shall first refer to the white population.

I cannot call it anything but an expropriation law which the Government are trying to enforce against the white community and to take the property belonging to them. When an individual has purchased landed property and has paid his own money for that property, Government should have no authority to interfere and oust him from that property. There is a proverb to the effect that "An Englishman's home is his castle," but in this particular case it seems to be quite different. The Province of Natal has now for the last 80 years been controlled by a civilized community with the exception of native locations comprising about two million acres, which area is still at the present day in its same state of barbarity as it was 80 years ago. That is why it is wrong for any administration to endeavour to keep a community in a state of barbarity, and if the administration are endeavouring to increase the area of that location by adding more land to it they are only increasing the area where the population remains uncivilized. My farm adjoins a native location, and I see every day what occurs there. I do not think there is any necessity at the present day, and for many years to come, for Government to expropriate land in the interests of the natives, because there are tens of thousands of acres in that location which are still unoccupied. There are in that location tens of thousands of acres of pasture which are not being used at the present day. Therefore, if the Government could educate the natives to live under more modern methods in carrying on their farming—there are at the present day 400,000 natives in that location (speaker's figures are obviously incorrect)—there would then be room. Those figures are given by the Commission of which Sir William Beaumont was one. Notwithstanding the figures may not be right, there is sufficient land in that location to carry double the number of natives it is carrying at the present day, and I therefore consider it an injustice which is being done to the natives, because it does not give them the opportunity of sharing in the benefits of civilization. Those natives who reside on private properties copy modern methods which have been adopted by Europeans, whereas when they are in locations they do not have the opportunity of seeing what white people do and are therefore unable to follow their example. Another important matter which concerns locations is that there has never been conflict or misunderstanding between the administration and natives residing on private properties. The native rebellion of 1906 emanated from the native location, and that rebellion cost the Administration £2,000,000. Therefore, native locations are places where natives assemble and become a menace to the country. It is not the wish of natives themselves to be in the native locations. I can assure you I have a large number of natives on my farm; if I were to threaten them that I would turn them off my farm and make them go on to a location I could not use a greater threat. Natives on private property are more progressive in their methods of farming and their property is of a more valuable nature than that of natives living in the locations.

Mr. D. W. H. TANDY.] What little information I have got to give you is from a personal knowledge of all the locations from the Tugela upwards in Natal and then down the Little Tugela, and my experience is that these locations at present are more than ample for the natives that are there and other natives also, inasmuch as they are not producing the quantity of food for the natives that they are capable of doing if cultivated in a scientific and proper manner. A reason why the locations should not be increased is that we have no control over them and no supervision over those areas in any shape or form. It is very disadvantageous for any farmer to be contiguous to one, because the thieving goes on without check, and there is no control. As regards the special lands, I would like to refer to those commonly known as the Buffalo Flats. Well, shortly before the war broke out a scheme was engineered in Johannesburg for the damming of the Buffalo and for taking it out on both sides of these flats. It would be possible to obtain the report of the engineer—Mr. Frank Greaves, in Newcastle, or Mr. Otto Schwikkard, had something to do with it. But this scheme naturally points to this conclusion: that it is a valuable area—too much so to be handed over to the natives. You will see where the land is in native possession it is year after year being exhausted. If they get two bags of mealies to the acre it is a big yield for them. Everything is collected and burnt, and the consequence is that in a very few years' time you will have a large area incapable of producing what it should do, and that same area could support a large white population comfortably. As regards that area towards the Klip River Location—well, there is coal on "Clontarf" and for information in reference to it I would refer you to North's Report of 1877, which was obtained by the Natal Government at very considerable cost. The coal outcrop is on "Hollywood," "Clontarff" and a hill called Ukalaua. Now that coal will be worked at some time or another. There is another point in connection with those same lands, that is the map of the alternative route of railway. How many years are people in the interior

going to put up with paying excessive railway rates when they can shorten it by pretty well a hundred miles by the alternate route, which comes through Sunday's River Poort. Well, gentlemen, that coal is bound to be used some day, and it will be very detrimental if that is in a native area. So far as those lands are concerned down there, if there was any access to them they would support a large number of people, but Government has constantly refused to make decent roads. There is another point: I do not think the Kafirs are on the increase. They have disease, drink, and "insangu" smoking, and are decreasing instead of increasing; before long these lands you contemplate setting apart won't be required.

By Mr. Chapman.] On the flats here towards the Waschbank, the land can be cultivated. Old Andries Naude made a fortune out of those farms. It is good stock country. Most of "Hollywood" and Soms Hoek" can be cultivated. "Klip Poort" belongs to natives.

Mr. A. G. SPIES.] I have been appointed by the Farmers' Association as a delegate to give evidence before this Committee. As regards certain lands which are at present occupied by white people on the Buffalo Flats, if this Bill goes through those white people will be deprived of their ground, and I consider it to be a great injustice to the white people if they are so deprived. Twenty years ago this was open country, and no farms were given out then. The farms were then surveyed and put up for sale. Whites as well as blacks then had the opportunity of buying these farms. Twenty years are passed now and as far as we can see the ground has not been suitable for natives. The whites purchased ground; then worked the ground, brought stock on and improved it. To-day there is a railway through some of these farms. Daily a certain quantity of cream and other produce is being sent away from these farms and machinery is being brought in, all of which is in favour of the Government. To-day we have a list in front of us of 8 farms bought from natives. These natives have been sold up because they could not exist there in Dundee and Newcastle Divisions. As far as I know when the natives bought these farms the agents advanced money to them to help them, and I understand also that after 20 years the natives could not repay the money. The native had 20 years in which to make his money out of the ground, and has been unable to do so.

By Mr. Evans.] Money is scarce; there is a war going on and nobody is inclined to invest. The ground is quite suitable for Europeans; in 20 years the whites have made a success of it, but not the natives. They plough a bit here and a bit there and never manure or fertilise the ground. The whites, on the other hand, have fertilised the ground and some of them are reaping as many as 1,000 bags of mealies from their farms. The natives there to-day are not reaping enough for their own use; they even come to my place to buy. Therefore I think it is a Bill which should not go through. It is not for the welfare of the whites or the natives.

Mr. G. J. WOOD.] I am a farmer on the Buffalo Flats. My farm is "Sushara," bounded by the Buffalo River, about three miles from the native area. I know these farms personally and I know most of the natives who are living on them. The point I wish to bring forward is this: that whereas the Europeans are great producers of mealies and cream, these natives do not produce any cream at all and they scarcely grow enough mealies for their own use. I enquired the other day at Tayside station, which is the railway station serving this district, and I found that from 450 to 600 gallons of cream a month are sent away from this station. Some six or seven years ago I do not think 20 gallons a month was sent away. If you take these native lands and give them to Europeans you will at once double the quantity of cream sent away from this station, because a European farmer gets milk cows and looks for a revenue from his cream. Natives, of course, don't get anything. There is an average of about 5,000 bags of mealies sent away annually from Tayside station which are entirely produced from the lands on the Buffalo Flats.

By Mr. Chapman.] "Tayside" is the station on this side; "De Jagers" Station is only four miles away on the other side. If these farms are given to natives there is practically no produce sent away. These farms were sold some 20 years ago by public auction. I bought my farm on the same date as a lot of natives who bought theirs. These natives ran up the farms—some of them went up to 15s. and as high as £1; they had no means of calculating what the annual rental would be and the consequence was in three or four years time they began to fall back with their instalments and then, native like, they flew to the lawyers who said "All right; we'll find the money; we'll lend it to you," and of course they took a bond on the farm, and that has been going on from bad to worse. The natives could not pay the instalments and the interest on the bond and the lawyers are foreclosing. So far as I know none of these farms have been sold to natives. Some have been sold to lawyers at 25s., who say they will get £2 for them after the war. They know they will not get £2 from natives, but they will from Europeans. Some of these farms are being sold to Europeans and some to Indians, and yet land which was held by natives could only be sold to natives and European land to Europeans only. We understood this until the new Bill was brought in. We should like to know why some of these lands should be sold to Indians.

Mr. Evans.] I suppose the permission of the Governor-General was obtained.

Mr. Wood (continuing).] So far as the natives are concerned, they are very much against the Bill. I have talked with a lot of them. My natives say they are not going to be put into locations; they have lived on the farm 20 years and are very contented. They do not want to go into locations.

Mr. J. J. GROVE (interpreted).] I am sorry that I only got notice last night late that I had to be here to-day so I could not go fully into the merits of the thing. I just want to give my opinion about the drawbacks of the locations. It is a fact which has been proved that where natives are thrown together by themselves it is bad for the surrounding country. It deters them from civilisation. When they are mixed with whites, like salt and pepper, it is better, for they become civilised. As regards ground belonging to natives, it has been proved that land they live on deteriorates whereas the whites improve the ground they live on. Therefore I consider it would be a mistake to increase the locations.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I would come back to the position before the Act of 1913 was passed. My reason for that is that the native likes to see what his white neighbour is doing and he does the same. A native does not lay out money to improve his farm; he goes to his white neighbour and asks—how do you do this and how do you do that? As regards the indiscriminate buying by natives, my neighbours to-day are natives and I have no trouble with them. I have no objection to natives having rights to buy land all round me. I would sooner have natives as neighbours than have locations two or three farms away, so long as the native is getting civilised.

Mr. D. C. UYS (interpreted).] I am here as the Chairman of the South African Party of the Dundee district and my Party says under no consideration will we submit to having our ground given over to natives. The Government always said this is the Garden Colony and to-day they want to make the Garden Colony into a Kafir Colony. This is where we were born and brought up and where our fathers before us shed their blood for the colony. Forty years ago Newcastle and the Buffalo Flats were a desert—a wilderness; to-day we have so improved it that it is a credit to the Garden Colony. All over the place water-holes have been put down, windmills put up and great improvements made. Ground that was worth 10s. twenty years ago is to-day worth 35s. and that was not done by natives. It was open for any native to live on any of these places formerly, but as they were unable to obtain water and hew wood they were unable to live there. I know some of the natives who grew up with me, who used to live on the Waschbank, below the Biggersberg, who bought ground and lived there; they made such a failure of the thing that they are back with me to-day and are working for me instead of being masters of their own ground. If we take the white population from the country, what will this ground be worth in twenty years hence? What is the use of a native if he lives in a location? He is useless to me as a farmer and he is useless to the Government. During 1906, where they had locations they stood up and caused a rebellion against the Government. I was one of the leaders during this rebellion and I was ordered by the Government to burn their huts in the locations, but of the natives who lived amongst us not a single hut was burned and not a single one joined the rebellion. We wish our future generations to inherit the land, after our forefathers have cleared the country for us so that we could live and prosper. Is there a single native living on a white man's ground where the Government can say "This man is not paying his hut tax"? If the native is unable to pay his hut tax he comes to his baas and says he is unable to pay and his baas puts his hand in his pocket and pays it for him. Natives who live in locations are put in jails and the jail is a thing I know very well—I was two years and six months there; it does a white man no good and it does more harm to a native. If you go round the district and ask the natives living on white men's ground if they wish to go to the locations, they will say "I wish to remain with my baas." Are we going to encourage barbarity amongst natives or are we going to civilise them? The Government has no control over them to-day; how are they going to acquire control when they will be put together where they can organise and do as they like. If there is to be trouble in the country there will be if the Government take these lands and give them to the natives. My feeling is that we should stand together—all the farmers English, Dutch, German or any kind—and say we are not going to give our ground to the natives. I do not want a native neighbour, far less a native location, near me. A native neighbour is no use; he is uncivilised and of no use to me.

Mr. Evans.] Are you aware that a large portion is already in the hands of natives?

Mr. Uys.] Yes, I know it well.

Mr. Evans.] Also that in the Dundee area there are only 7 European farms? Do you wish to revert to the position prior to 1913 when a native had the legal right to buy any of the farms around you?

Mr. Uys.] If I could do it, I would not allow a native to buy land at all.

Mr. Evans.] You would take away the right of buying and give nothing in return for it?

Mr. Uys.] Look at the Buffalo Flats: it is all bought by capitalists, who are milking the native until he is perfectly dry. No, I do not want to revert to the position which allowed a native to buy land. We will find out later that although that ground is registered in the native's name a private agreement has been signed between the capitalist and agent. If a native does not pay the capitalist remains owner of the ground. We want

to see the country civilised by whites and to civilise the natives—not to get them into locations and to return to barbarity. I can point out in the location a native who stole certain sheep and the hut where they used to kill them in. He has no butcher's licence, but he sells meat because he has not a square house. The Government have not got so far as to make a law to compel a native, if he is living in a round hut, to have a license. I arrested him and he was brought here and discharged. That is what locations do. Natives living on a white man's farm get their stock dipped free of charge; he ploughs for him and sees he gets on. There are fewer fights between natives on private farms than there are in locations, because the baas points out to each the particular lands they may cultivate. In locations one will go and plough right in front of the other's house and then go as far as Talana and plough another piece there; how can a man there keep his cattle out of his gardens. The main point is simply this, as far as I know: I am instructed to inform the Committee that not a single man will give up his ground for natives. You mention members of Parliament—they make promises, but as soon as he has been elected he takes his coat on his arm, goes off to Capetown and we do not hear of him again.

Mr. T. MANUELL.] I am sent as a delegate by the Waschbank Farmers' Association to give evidence before you gentlemen to-day. Personally, I cannot speak with any authority whatever, as I have only been in the colony about five years. The feeling of our Association is that the Kafir at present holds sufficient land and it is detrimental to the interests of the colony that any more land should be owned by them. The chief reasons are that it is wanted for the white population and at present it is not urgently required for native occupation. The feeling of our Association is that it is quite time enough to give the natives more land when they make the greatest use possible of the land they already possess. Looking at it from an Imperial point of view, I think it is also very undesirable that natives should own more land, especially land that is capable of growing sugar. Of the various areas that are proposed to be handed to the Kafir I know nothing whatever, but this I know: that the Kafir does not improve the lands that he holds. The settlement that we are on was formerly rented by Kafirs and we know to our cost what the condition is when he leaves.

By Mr. Chapman.] Ours is the Kuick Vlei settlement. We have 20 years in which to pay for our land.

By Mr. Evans.] No, I do not think we want to revert to the position prior to 1913. As I understand the matter we do not want this, but we think the Kafir has enough land. I do not think the native should be allowed to acquire any more land. When the Kafir is capable of holding and farming land as the white man, then I have no objection to him holding it. I understand the Kafirs do not ask for anything more. I look at it from a public point of view that the right should be taken away. I would not allow natives to buy all over the land and my Association would not. I have been told the idea is to buy land and get native tenants. That cannot be beneficial to the country. The view of our Association is dead against the native having any more land. I understand they have already 27 per cent. of Natal. Would not the present locations accommodate all the natives who would be moved?

Mr. F. SAVILLE.] I was deputed with Mr. Manuell to give evidence before the Commission by the Waschbank Farmers' Association. Some five years ago the lands known as Kuick Vlei Settlement were let out to 15 settlers. Those lands had been previously occupied by natives and turned into a home for witch-weed. Shortly before the present European war started the Government, I believe, took option on about twenty or thirty thousand acres of land lower down, and this land abuts some of the farms that have been taken in the recommended area ("Klippoort"). Owing to the war these options were not exercised and the land was given up. Now, my Association is of opinion that the land is suitable for settlers—for dairying and mixed farming. Nowadays people are making much more money out of cream and pigs. Our present settlement produces to-day more in dairy produce than, I should say, three times the rental of these farms when let to natives! It was about £600 a year and to-day, I think a low estimate would be £1,500 of dairy produce leaving that settlement. The money spent on that settlement, too—each settler has spent from £750 to £1,000. It has altogether improved the country and my Association think it is a shame to take this land and give to natives just to spoil. The land all down the Waschbank—the recommended area—is suitable for settlement. I have been over the farms; some of them are rugged, but there are places where they could be cut up with flats and hillside. It will do for mixed farming, because a white man will grow cactus and winter foods. It is a fairly warm country and splendid cattle country.

By Mr. Evans.] I know "Klip Fontein" is very suitable for Europeans. The man there is doing very well with stock and making a good living out of that piece of land. We are of opinion that natives should not have more land given to them. That if you wish to improve the native in any way let him occupy the present areas; let him occupy them properly. If he wishes to rent a piece of land, let him do it, and if he produces anything properly let him buy it. There are large areas at the present time that if the native were a farmer in the sense of the word he would produce something from. Take the six or eight farms mentioned to-day: now, had a white man occupied them for 30

years do you think he would have sold them for 30s.? No, I think the improvements would have been worth more than that. Those farms ought to be a useful asset to the community. To-day they are sold for their grazing value practically and those farms would have been snapped up by the white men but for the Bill. We are of opinion that no further land should be alienated for natives—let them occupy and improve the land they have in locations. In England, if a man had a little money, he rented a farm, and if he had the money later on he bought it. Our Association thinks they can let land in the present native locations. The opinion of our Association is that in the native locations, as defined before this Commission sat, let a man rent land and if he lives properly he is a fit and proper man to buy land, let him buy it. Let them prove that they can occupy it properly. From personal experience as a compound manager in Johannesburg for 8 years I know that the people in Johannesburg would pay £5 per man if they would sign an eight months agreement, so a chief could get £5,000 very easily, in fact he could get £20,000. The native, as long as he is in his present state, is of no use to the country. As a labourer he is an asset, because he ousts the white labourer. If they will join together and buy up this country—they will, if you put them into locations—the first thing they will do is to organise.

By Mr. Evans.] I say if the law allowed it that every farm should be given so many natives. Take England, for instance; they were all serfs at one time. As regards the evidence I gave previously; at that time we were suffering under a delusion that these people were to be put into small areas; that there was no option—that they were to be moved into areas. That labour would be drawn from those areas and farmers would not be allowed to keep any. I am of a different opinion now.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is a small area which I had in mind between Glencoe Junction and Waschbank—a very rugged and small area, probably 6,000 acres—"Uithoek." It is owned by a company—a coal syndicate, and it is not beneficially occupied, so it would do as an area. I contend that land would not realise a fair price to-day owing to the fact that this Bill is hanging over our heads. There is no doubt about it. It is rather difficult to say how much land has depreciated. When these lands were bought there was not the demand there is now. I should say that if that land was worth £2 it has depreciated 50 per cent. My farm was originally native occupied and I can base a fair valuation from a knowledge of it when I took it over. The land previously occupied by natives will produce absolutely nothing.

Mr. H. Ryley.] I would like, before I give any definite evidence, to say it is most difficult to fight a general principle which has been adopted by the Government. I would like to say that, firstly, I am diametrically opposed to anything like segregation and I am opposed to that Bill *in toto*. I think the Government owe more to the native than doing the injustice of making him an owner of land. As far as the lands in our district are concerned, I am fairly well acquainted with these lands. The lands that have in the past been occupied by the natives have been depreciated by those natives. When I came to this town first we used to buy a considerable amount of grain from natives, but year by year the amount of grain produced by natives in our district has decreased. You may be inclined to think that statistics show to the contrary, but they are wrong because they have never considered the extent to which the land has been depreciated by bad cultivation. The land has been depreciated year by year and the native is producing less to-day than he was 20 years ago in our district. The lands, particularly the Buffalo River Flats, are lands which are entirely unsuitable for natives. In the first place, any white man who goes on these lands finds it is necessary that he should cultivate them in an intelligent manner, which a native cannot do. These lands can only be made the most of by intelligent cultivation and the white man has succeeded in doing that. If we look round the whole of this district here we find there are many thousands of acres of land which were bought by men who had little or nothing when they bought them and they had great difficulty in putting up their improvements, so we can say that these lands have been successfully occupied by white people. On the other hand, the native has taken these lands in certain parts; he has had them for 20 years; he has not improved them; with only a few exceptions, which are very much in the minority, they have been exploited by the lawyer and the capitalist, because they were men who were not in a position to own. I would like to say here that I am entirely opposed to ownership of land by natives, anyhow, at the present period; I do not say the time will never come when natives may acquire land and be able to manage that land. The Committee cross-questioned some of the delegates who spoke on the question of why these lands were bought—these 8 or 9 farms—what was the object in buying them. I think, gentlemen, in most cases, in fact in the great majority, these lands were bought to protect the capitalist and the man who had lent the money to the native. To show how little suitable the native is to own these lands I would point out that most of them were bought in the neighbourhood of 10s. We have recent sales where these lands have been sold for 29s. 6d., and the improvements on those lands are practically nil, except the fencing, which is mostly not paid for. Well, I would point out that those natives have benefited to the tune of £1 an acre unearned increment whilst they have not been able to produce enough to keep themselves. The commercial part of our colony must die if our lands are not properly farmed. The native cannot do it. If the Government had put up a technical school and trained these men 50 years ago they would

have done a kindness to the native. It is the intention of the man who bought these farms to exploit these natives again; they are speculators. Now, I hope you won't lose sight of the fact of the benefit the native has had from the land in the case of unearned increment. These natives have not been able to keep themselves upon the ground, and as natives require so very little to live upon, it seems to me to speak for itself; that if they could not keep themselves how on earth could they benefit the country? These lands are valuable and in a few years there will be many thousands of white men requiring land to live upon. There will be thousands of men who return from this present war and who will seek a living in farming and a good many will come from the old country. Are we to turn our backs upon these men? No, we must do everything we possibly can for them. I think it was a disgrace the way Sir Rider Haggard was treated when he came out here. The Committee must be convinced of the undesirability of giving any more lands to natives until such time as the native has shown his ability to work those lands and to make them of wealth to the country. Apart from any private interest, I think we are bound to look upon the general interest of the country, and the main object is that our land shall produce and we become a prosperous community. I am quite sure that if it had not been for the white people who have occupied these lands we should not have had a prosperous community upon it and Dundee would have not been half the size. Pomeroy is a standing example of what the natives can do; practically no white man lives in the place; there is a doctor, who I presume is paid by the Government. There is nothing but a string of coolie stores; the hotel is closed up, and if more land goes to natives there will be more coolie stores in the country. It is opening the way for the coolie trader, which I maintain is not conducive to the good of the white man or the native in the country. The whole subject of the breeding of insurrection and sedition in native areas, *i.e.* in our locations, has been, I think, freely discussed to-day. It has always been the source of all trouble; all our trouble has arisen from those areas—granted it may have been averted if we had a good Government. My idea is this: that every location should have its controlling officer, and that every acre of that land should be set apart that the native may rent it and have a right to it under lease. I do not wish to cut out the natives' right to lease, and in those areas which belong to the Government they should receive rent and use it for the better administration of those areas and the education of the natives. The education of the natives is one of the greatest needs in South Africa. If we want to be unkind to the natives, give them more land. In other parts they have selected the worst land they could get and given it to the natives. The Free State has given them Thaba 'Nchu. There is one point I want to make and that is to take away these lands from our district will mean that we shall probably turn out from the existing land some 30 or 40—probably more—prosperous farmers and we shall bring in men who are prepared to rob the land and do it no good. As a community of traders here all our rights will be jeopardised by such action if the value of the land around the district is depreciated by non-production; our town also will depreciate as far as property is concerned. The most desirable thing is that we get our land occupied by white people and that the native be put back into his location where he wants land of his own. The most prosperous natives we have in this division are those living on European farms—in contentment and well looked after, but in the other case you find them working in road parties or as convicts because they will not on their own take care of and farm their land in such a manner as to be productive. That is the point I wish specially to make; that this district and this town will be very severely hurt if these lands are given to natives.

By Mr. Chapman.] As regards the irrigation scheme mentioned, I could not tell you anything except that it was the common topic of conversation at one time. I have no doubt a good deal of irrigation could take place, but it is an engineering problem. I consider the country in question is highly suitable for irrigation.

Mr. W. T. HESLOP.] There are only one or two points in connection with the general question as to the amount of ground that should be set aside for natives that I should like to submit to you. The first is (perhaps I am infringing a little on the political side): I think you will accept without discussion the general principle that legislation should tend to encourage beneficial occupation rather than discourage it. The evidence that has already been submitted would indicate that the proposals, if effected, would discourage beneficial occupation, and as an illustration of that point I should like to mention one area outside this district, that is the northern coast flats of Zululand, which I visited some time ago. You have it on evidence submitted from the Zululand planters that that same belt of land goes north and in winter there is no water for a distance of perhaps 12 to 20 miles. The consequence is that it is practically unoccupied. There are only a few native huts near water holes and by the rivers, and if that land was opened up for European occupation water could be got at any point. It is a porous soil and the water travels underground. If that land was thrown open for European occupation, not only would it support a large European population, but it would support a much larger native population than what it is doing to-day. With regard to the natives, more particularly of this district and with regard to the whole of Zululand, I would like to point out that the native had to depend on the cultivation of the land, either by himself—or more often by his wives, for his livelihood. During

the last 25 years there has been a great and remarkable change in regard to that and to a very large extent the native is no longer a farmer but is a wage earner, and I would ask you to make a clear discrimination between the native as a farmer and his requirements and the native as a wage earner and his requirements. Ten years ago labour was so scarce that we imported big lots of Chinamen to supplement requirements. The native has turned out to work so much better that we have more labourers at work without the Chinamen than we had with them. Then there is another tendency to which I would like to refer with reference to this district: if we go back ten or twelve years there were very few natives who were living near their work on the mines in this district or near the town of Dundee, that is natives who were living with their wives and families in proximity to where their work was. To-day I think I am not in the least over-estimating when I say that round about Dundee and round about the coal mines in this district there are at least 1,500 natives who have taken up their residence with their families, either on the mines or in the neighbourhood of the town, and I submit that this tendency, which is going to grow and grow as years go on, as it develops will result in less need to provide agricultural land and settlements for the natives. There are many criticisms with regard to town locations perhaps it is unnecessary for me to take up your time with them—but I would just like to say that in spite of all the criticisms with regard to difficulties such as immorality and drink, that it is a natural way of living for either black man or white—to live with his family near his work, and we have got to face the position that in the future a very large section of the native population will be town dwellers rather than rural dwellers, and as such they need only the provision of houses and a very small area instead of a farm. With regard to the Buffalo Flats, I should like to say I am manager of the St. George's Colliery and familiar with the coal fields of Natal and with the whole of the Buffalo Flats. The folloiwng farms to my knowledge are coal bearing: "Mooidoorn Hoek," "Kakanini's Kraal," "Klip Rots," "Verdriet," "Mourne," "Goudine," "Geduld," "Mt. Johanna," Alleen No. 1 and 2," "Magdalena," "Annie." I have no doubt there are more farms further north of which I have not definite evidence. Now if these farms were included in a native area, although the move might specifically exclude minerals, it is necessary for development that the collieries have surface rights. If the proposals were to go through the difficulties of obtaining title would be very largely increased and in that we have to remember that we have to consider generally men in London or other parts of Europe who have got to be satisfied as to their title, and there would be very considerable additional difficulties in securing satisfactory title. Then in some of these areas this state of affairs would prevail: that we would have a colliery of which one half would be under white or European laws and the other half would be under native laws. In dealing with any particular native we might have to first of all consider whether we must take him to the native chief or to the Magistrate.

By Mr. Chapman.] Several of them have been bored. There are outcrops proving the general line and I would say that they are all possible propositions, but I would not give an opinion at present. The conditions in Natal change: the conditions of fuel requirements will change, and what is not possible to-day may be possible or workable a few years hence. The point in nearly all those cases—it is not a question of the thickness of the seam—is whether it is anthracitic or bituminous. At present all our market is for the latter; later on the market for the former is bound to develop as the demand for suction gas power develops. The coal rights of "Mooidoorn Hoek" are held by the Natal Navigation Collieries. With regard to the coal at Job's Kop, I may say I have no personal knowledge of it. I have read North's report, and the same remarks would apply that is to say, if the coal is not a payable proposition to-day, at any time in the future it may become so. With regard to the purchase of land on the Buffalo Flat and the farms that have been mentioned, the point has been made that lands have been bought for the purpose of selling again to natives. I should like to ask you to take that with a degree of caution. I knew a farm—"Geduld"; as a matter of fact, some years ago the owner told me he was willing to sell portions to natives. I asked further questions about it and he said "Well, it really does not matter, because I know they won't pay up and I will get their land back again." Any scheme of purchase for the benefit of the natives must be accepted with a considerable degree of caution.

Mr. J. DYSON.] It was an absolutely representative meeting of the whole district, as far as it could be, and it represented the unanimous opposition of the whole district to this No. 4 area being included. We object to the whole of that area being included. In 1894 the first sale of Crown Lands took place in this district. I know that a deputation consisting of Sir Thomas Watt, the Revd. James Scott, Mr. J. Sparks, of Newcastle, and somebody else, interviewed the Government and they pleaded for the sake of bringing the natives up to the white standard to allow them (the natives) to purchase on the next sale, and they were allowed to purchase. Now the object of that deputation, I think, no man can say, was effective—not a single one of those natives who purchased has made a step to come up towards the white level. Now, speaking from the mining point of view, I do not think for a moment that the Government will yield up mineral areas, but it is uncertain. I have a drill working on European land in the Transvaal now which I offered to the

Government before I started there on the condition I could peg out a certain amount of ground; the Mines Department referred to the Minister of Native Affairs, who refused without any reason to give his permission. The mineral development has very largely made this district. You will understand at once that what may be turned down on the Buffalo Flats to-day may be very valuable in ten years hence. Some years ago I refused a farm in Vryheid at 7s. 6d. an acre because it was largely anthracite; to-day the Natal Ammonium, Ltd. stands there—on that very farm they have spent £400,000 in development. We have any amount of land here with coal of a similar nature which will have to be developed for the same of the nitrate content, which is wanted on the surface there. On commercial grounds alone, I think, this area should not be included. It was never intended that it should be a kafir location. The natives who came there undertook to fulfil white conditions and they have not done so and the consequence is that the white man has to suffer for the sake of the natives. I think you two gentlemen cannot for a moment contemplate putting these white men in the position they will be. Personally, I was opposed to the 1913 Bill because I do not think segregation to-day has a possible chance of success. I feel that the native is going to be more a wage-earner. There is ample scope to-day for every native who cares to have work to earn more money as an industrial worker that he ever will on a farm, if set aside for him. He can earn from £30 to £45 a year from actual labour, and where will he do this as an agriculturist? There is not a single argument in favour of putting him back into a barbaric state where he has no development whilst the commercial side is pleading for him. The moment a native comes into contact with the towns his intelligence is increased—I don't say his morality is better. You put him back into the location and the Government may promise you that they are going to instruct him, but take dipping—what are the farmers crying out to-day about the irregularity of dipping? I have no faith in any Government that they will be able to give good instructors to the class of native that you have in those locations—in all education there must be effort on the part of the individual himself. The demarcation of native areas to-day is taking a very, very dangerous step and the Government should set their mind upon two things: not to place any more land under native control until they have carried out the experiment they propose with the present areas; not to take any lands which are suitable for white development and to give us a guarantee that they will not take a white man's land except he himself is willing to sell it to the Government. Those two principles we ought to be assured of by this Commission and I think the evidence has been satisfactory this morning; that we are entitled to that consideration, particularly with regard to this Buffalo area. If there is some feeling that these men should be protected and not exploited by these speculators, leave it a neutral area and the Government under regulation can then deal with the native-owned portions of it without injuring the interests of the white man. I hope, in view of all the facts and information we have laid before you, that we shall be protected from having a native location in one of the best developed commercial districts in the north of Natal.

The taking of European evidence terminated about 1 p.m.

Report of Meeting held with Natives of Dundee Division during afternoon of March 16th, 1917.

Mr. A. W. Leslie, Magistrate of the Division, introduced the Committee, and the Revd. S. Msimang acted as Interpreter.

The boundaries of the recommended native areas in Dundee and Newcastle Divisions are carefully explained to the meeting.

ELIAS NGWENYA.] I wanted to know the exact locality of these recommended areas, and we are glad to see the Committee, who have explained matters, to-day.

ELIAM SIBEKI.] I hardly know what to say. I do know these places, but comparing the size with the number of people it seems hardly enough for them. I want to speak on the general question: I see no reason why the Government should select spots in which a native can buy and not allow him to buy in any place and reside with his family. Therefore I consider the law as being a bad one, because there are certain places which have been bought by natives which by this Bill are to go in the European area. If the Government had given open permission for natives to buy in any part of the Colony in amongst the Europeans, as it has been formerly, it would be good. Our grandfathers could not tolerate the treatment of Tshaka and they had to desert him to come to the European side of the land; yet these people understood about the reign of Tshaka, but we have never known anything about it.

PHILIP NGWENYA.] Sirs, I have not much to say. I prepared myself, but I have been stopped by the Committee because they say they are not here about the Bill in

Parliament, and we have much to say about the Bill. Now they tell us about the delimitation of land and I want to say that we have nothing to bring forward about this, because we do not recommend it. All we want is good living under the Government of the King and to live with the Europeans as our fathers. We do not want to be told we must live in these areas and be separated, because we shrink at that. We cannot resume our old Zulu way of living. We have been subject to the British Government and we like to be at one with them. We want to be taught everything by them, but if we are to be segregated, what is it they want to find by putting us alone by ourselves? I have nothing to say about the delimitation of the land. It is a very good thing for us to be allowed to buy, but we would like to buy amongst the Europeans and let them teach us everything we must do, as we are natives and know nothing ourselves. It was a very good thing when the Government opened up lands for sale and we all bought lands mixed up with Europeans. All native people who had money did buy and those who had no money had to remain on farms; others lived in locations. Consequently those who were tired of living on the locations need to change and live on European farms. If they happened to have accumulated money by working for a farmer, then they bought their own private lands. That law was very pleasing to us. Now we say there should be no law restricting natives, saying that a native should be in one spot and the European in another spot: such a law causes us fear. I am acquainted with all these farms which have been named and I know their owners and boundaries. I know these farms which it is proposed to set aside are very small and would hardly be sufficient for the natives to buy; they would simply crowd these farms, because it would mean those who are the other side of the railway line will have to shift and buy pieces of land on this side—well, the place is hardly enough for them. Even if the Government would make the railway line as the boundary from Dannhauser to Biggarsberg that in itself would not be enough for the people in this divison of Dundee, and therefore in view of this reason I would say let things be allowed to continue as they were before. We do not wish these lands which have been set apart for the natives; they would simply be an annoyance to us. We are fond of the Europeans and we would like to live with them; we want to follow the civilized ways of living.

Mr. Evans.] Does he think it is the intention to move all the natives in Newcastle and Dundee divisions into this demarcated area?

Philip Ngwenya.] No, I did not think that. It is the general idea of separating us from the whites; I say—why all this segregation? It is the very idea of demarcating the land; if the Government simply informed the natives that they might buy the farms in such and such a locality if they wished, it would not be opposed. The thing that startles us is to first demarcate the place and then say natives may buy there. Before, the land was simply open for sale and natives who wished to buy did buy; if this was still the case we would be satisfied.

ESAU KUMALO.] I have not very much to say, because I understood I was to come here to speak about the Bill itself, which originated from the law passed in 1913. Now I hear the Committee tell us that these farms are intended for sale by the Government. There is one thing which startles me, knowing all the farms which are intended to be opened for sale, and I say it will be difficult for a man to pass to the railway line because the people are shut out on the other side and the natives are put on one side to buy.

GAQU NXUMALO.] The previous speakers have already said enough, but we expected to hear something which would please us, but most of these farms which are mentioned are farms which have already been purchased by natives, there are only very few farms which still belong to the Europeans. What is to become of the native owners who already possess these lands, and I wonder if Europeans will agree to give up their farms? All that we expected is to be allowed to live with Europeans as before, amicably, and then we would be pleased with the Government as our superior. All I wish to emphasise is that most of these farms which have been enumerated are already owned by natives. There are many natives living on the farms. We want to remain with Europeans and only ask for a better Government; we are all one blood—the land belongs to the Government, the natives belong to the Government and the Europeans are Government subjects, too.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have no land.

SOLOMON MNCUBE.] I will only speak one or two words. We are afraid of this law. Of course, Mr. Chairman, it is a little consolation to hear that there will be a chance for a native to buy, because we understood that when the Bill of 1913 passed it clearly forbade the purchasing of land by natives. It pleases us to hear the privilege of buying is now being restored. Our complaint is that whilst we are given the privilege it is limited —we can only buy in certain areas. What would please us most would be to have general permission to purchase land. It makes us complain to hear that natives can buy in certain localities and not in others. It would be a good thing if I am allowed to go and buy in any sale of land, whether in Ladysmith, or in Zululand or anywhere else. There is only one thing which makes us fear because we can only buy in certain localities; we find that people who live in town and have European influence are better and wiser than those who live by themselves and on farms. There is one word which will please us when we return

home and that is that we still have the right to purchase land. All our complaint is at being separated from Europeans, because we have been content to live with them and have got to like them; it is anything against this which is displeasing to us.

WALTER DHLAMINI.] There is only one difficulty with me and that is to speak in favour of separating the natives from Europeans. The way in which we have lived with Europeans and purchased land hitherto has been very good, *i.e.* to buy anywhere and settle anywhere we wished. We are afraid to hear the Government wants to make a certain limit to the place in which natives may live. We want to live together with Europeans and not be separated. We do not like anything that will separate us from Europeans and disapprove of it. I do not see how Government can be said to apportion lands which are already belonging to the natives. I do not see why they should count this as land which has been set aside for native areas, seeing it already belongs to them. I do not see what is the idea of putting aside these places, as they already belong to the natives. (Witness is corrected on this point.) What has moved the Government to make this delimitation and to create a location out of private farms?

NTABENI ZWANE.] I have not much to say, Sirs. Previous speakers have said what I intended to say. What the Government proposes to do is to separate natives from the Europeans, and that is what we are opposed to. It would have been better if the Government thought of this some years ago in the very beginning, because we are now so associated with Europeans that it is difficult to do it. These farms which are intended to be a native area are far too small. If those farms are intended to be given to chiefs, how can one chief even live on one farm? The only good thing is that the people are given the option to buy. After the farms which are offered for sale have all been bought what will become of the posterity of those men? This is quite a different question to the one we thought we had come about. We thought we had come about the law, and the only question is the recommended area. If those farms were intended to be given as locations to the chiefs, they would be far inadequate. Would it not be proper if the Government were to acquire more land which would be able to take in a large number of people easily. These places look very,very small to us indeed. Looking at these two divisions of Dundee and Newcastle, these places would not be sufficient for the natives there. I live at Ntabane, on my own land.

NAPTALI MLIFE.] I have not much to say. What I prepared to speak about is not the question before the Committee. I thought we were here about the Bill. We are thankful to find there are places which will be open for sale to natives only. There is one thing which frightens us—this delimitation. We would like the land to be open for sale as formerly, so that we could buy anywhere. What I want to know is what has caused the Government to take this course, to make this delimitation, instead of allowing us to buy as formerly. We do not like to be separated from Europeans. We were pleased with the Government which allowed us to live amongst Europeans and the Government was very good to us—we had no complaint. We wish Government to consider our desire.

WILLIAM MTIMKULU.] I am glad to hear that land has been marked out which we will be allowed to buy. What I am afraid of is that after the commencement of this Act no one will be allowed to live other than on the conditions stipulated in the Act, and then the question suggests itself of what is to become of one who is not a landowner. Besides, we natives are not like Europeans; we live in quite a different way —sometimes we have distant relations, whereas in the Bill it is said only the owner and his children and blood relations can inherit—not more distant relations. This law excludes my cousins and cousins' relations from coming to live with me on the farm. The treatment of those natives who will remain on the farms gives us great apprehension, because their masters will have to get licences for them. It does not say that the squatter or servant will get a licence; his master will do this for him. It is said that this licence will cost so much in pounds and shillings, so that it may even be £10 and the money will be charged to me. We are told that as soon as this Bill is passed and published in the *Gazette*, then it becomes law, and that any law affecting the natives in the native area will not have to go to Parliament any more. We are afraid of this. All that I say is we are very much afraid of this Bill. It is the people who are educated and being educated who would be expected to do farming in the European style, and this will affect the old people who are not able to work on the farms. This Bill should only affect young people and not old people. (It is explained that the Bill may undergo amendment before becoming law.) I was only referring to a provision in the Act of 1913 that the cause of this law was to try and better the natives by taking them and civilizing them. I say that should only be expected of the young people at school and the law should discriminate.

Revd. SEBASTIAN MSIMANG.] I am attached to the Wesleyan Native Mission at Dundee and will speak on behalf of the chiefs and people generally. I do not see, Sirs, how we can disassociate the question of the Bill and that of delimitation of the land, because when we begin to think of natives being put on one side then we think of all the conditions which are laid down in the Bill. We, as natives, oppose and dislike the very idea of being segregated, because we consider that Europeans came here to educate, civilise and lift us up

generally, and the only opportunity of enlightening and lifting a person up is by associating him with you. By putting a native on one side you cause him to resume his natural national way of living and perpetuating that. This we find in the Cape Colony, where there was not much of this segregation. Here in Natal it is anticipated there is going to be segregation in the land. It is in Natal that there is segregation in the trains, segregation in the streets, and I understand in some churches; I am not going to say in which churches, but there are churches in which a native is not allowed to put his foot. This at once makes us suspicious that the people who make such laws have not the good wishes of the natives, and so, Mr. Chairman, speaking in general we disapprove of this putting aside of natives and Europeans. We do not know what the Government is going to do. They have already passed the Bill of 1913 into an Act. Now we are only speaking as to how the law is going to be carried out and to-day in looking at that law we find that natives are going to be put on one side and will be allowed to buy farms on one side. We cannot reply whether we think the places cut out are good for natives or not without first thinking whether there will be enough for the natives. For instance those seven additional farms other than those already bought by natives I hold will not be enough for the natives who are bound to be thrown out of the farms. It is all very well to say natives will not be forced out of farms, but the Bill as it is will force them, every native, out of the farm. I think it is the object in passing this Bill—they have made such restrictions which no native will tolerate and none will wish to remain on the farms. Therefore, before we could express our opinion for or against this we must first look whether the land suggested will be enough for all the natives who will be thrown out of these farms, and I say there won't be enough because nearly every native will not be able to remain on the farms. I think it is only blinding to reckon those farms already bought by the natives, because the natives thrown out of the farms will not have freedom in getting into every private farm—they will only have those seven farms remaining in the area, and therefore if the Bill is to become law and if the Act which was passed in 1913 is to be executed in all the rigour and restrictions which are in the Act, I say emphatically that those farms are not enough. You require perhaps ten more farms, and not only for purchase; I would suggest that whilst the Government put aside certain farms on which natives may purchase, the Government should put aside and reserve some farms for the future growth of the population within the area. Also, there should be some mission reserve within those areas. There are some natives who cannot buy farms, because they have not done it before, and some natives who certainly believe that a farm cannot be bought—if you buy one it is only for a certain period and the Government will take it away again. For the sake of those people who are christians there should be mission reserves—in the middle of the country and near the coast—and also there should be some farms so that the non-christian population who are not able to buy and who wish to get out of farms could go under their respective chiefs and live within that area. So we must reckon farm owners, mission reserves, and surely there should be a location within the area we are dealing with. So, Mr. Chairman, speaking generally, although there may be some good motives in making this Bill separating natives from Europeans, the provision made for carrying out the Bill is inadequate. Much more land is needed, because I say again no native will remain under the farmer on those conditions, and if the Government cannot make provision for these it would be better to suspend the carrying out of the Act of 1913 of the passing of this Bill until the Government is in a position to make better provision. Natives had understood from the very beginning and introduction of this law and the last Act that they were to keep quiet and make no complaint and petitions, as the King was engaged in this terrible struggle. Therefore the general feeling of the natives is to ask the Government to suspend the carrying out of the Act of 1913 until sufficient provision has been made, and also to ask the Government to shelve the present Bill until it has been thoroughly explained to the natives, because—reading from papers and reports of European meetings and congresses —it seems to me neither the natives nor the Europeans have sufficient knowledge of either the Act of 1913 or the present Bill before Parliament.

Mr. Evans addressed the meeting, which dispersed at about 4.30 p.m.

Private information given to Committee at Dundee on 16th March, 1917, by Mr. T. H. Worthington, Solicitor, regarding Farms in the district.

"Westport" was bought in about a week ago by Mr. Cornforth. The bond was foreclosed. I understand the idea is to re-sell to natives, if possible. "Milford" is a farm which was sold at the same time as "Jessie." Both were foreclosed under bonds. They were bought at a public sale by Cornforth and A. J. T. van Tonder about six months ago for about 30s. an acre. Their intention was to re-sell to Kafirs. "Clones" was bought in on Saturday last by A. H. Hime under the bond for 29s. 6d.; the bond stood at £1 17s. 9d. an acre. I think the original cost was about 12s. an acre. On

"Clones" there was not one lot which was clear. "Westport," "Clones," "Devon," "Curragh," "Perth," "Ladybank," "Magdalena," "Jessie," "Milford," "Poona," "Moy," "Cloneen," "Kaal Vlaagte," together with "Gardens," "Loch Lomond," and "Crane Valley"—the native owners of those farms raised approximately £10,000 for the whole lot and paid the Government that and passed bonds for those farms; each syndicate passed a separate bond over each farm through Allison & Hime. The farms were all surveyed and each man was allotted a share in proportion to what he had already paid into the syndicate, leaving a commonage. He was apportioned a proportionate liability under the bond and he was dealt with separately. That was in 1908. After 7 years those bonds stood at approximately £14,500—in seven years they had accumulated nearly £5,000 interest. In some cases some of the men had paid sufficient to cover their liability and lost everything they had paid in. The liability was not actually divided in the bond; they were all liable for the full amount; every individual was liable for the full completion of the whole transaction in respect of the particular farm. The only remedy was to prosecute the defaulter. "Magdalena" was purchased by an Indian named M. I. Boddy. "Curragh" was bought in by E. Cornforth—foreclosed under the bonds. "Perth" was bought at 27s. 6d., I think. On "Rutland," which is still under certificate of sale and purchase, they are in arrear about £140. "Mullingar" and "Trim" are both held under certificate of purchase. In 1908 "Trim" owed £500 arrear instalments and they still owe the same amount plus interest. They have not paid a sixpence in interest. Some of the arrears would buy this land at £1 an acre; very few stood in at that price. At anything like the price they could not get Europeans to buy except for resale to natives. "Verdriet" and "Hilltop" are completely paid off. "West Heslerton," "East Heslerton" and "Wykeham" belong to natives. They have rents from mineral leases, which I think belong to the British Klip River Company. "Klip Poort": 96 natives formed a syndicate and bought the farm about 1895. They borrowed money from Allison & Hime, and it was wound up about a year ago. There was a public sale of sub-divisions and they were bought up by natives; the whole thing was wound up and they have their title-deeds.

Copy of Resolutions, etc., passed at Public Meeting in Dundee, put in as evidence by delegates.

Mr. W. T. HESLOP moved: "That this public meeting of farmers, landowners and other interested residents of the northern districts of Natal dissents very strongly from the recommendations of the Native Land Commission, 1916, and is of opinion that no further land in Natal should be added to the existing native reserve area. It protests more particularly against the inclusion of the whole of Area No. 4 known as the Buffalo Flats and the additional lands in No. 6 area of the Helpmakaar and Nqutu districts."

Seconded by Mr. D. W. H. Tandy and carried unanimously.

(Signed) J. DYSON, Chairman.

Mr. J. CROOK, of Newcastle, moved the next resolution as follows: "That this meeting protests against the provisions of the Bill to carry out the recommendations of the Natives Lands Commission as legislation of a retrograde character constituting the Governor-General the legislator, and is not in the interests of the Europeans or of the natives."

Seconded by Mr. A. Garstang and carried unanimously.

(Signed) J. DYSON, Chairman.

Mr. HARRY RYLEY then proposed that a copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting be submitted to the Commission and that certain persons to be hereafter chosen be asked to attend before the Commission to give evidence to support the resolutions.

(Signed) J. DYSON, Chairman.

The following details of farms sold on behalf of natives recently have been collected from information available:

"Westport."—650 acres, 1 rood, 35 perches, sold to Messrs. Cornforth and others	£800	0	0
"Milford."—1,000 acres 2 roods 3 perches, sold to Messrs. Cornforth and others	1,381	0	0
"Jessie."—875 acres 2 roods 8 perches, sold to Messrs. Cornforth and others ...	1,313	1	6
"Clones."—977 acres 2 roods 27 perches, sold to Mr. A. H. Hime	1,442	1	0
"Poona"—1,054 acres 3 roods 25 perches, sold to Drs. Chambers and Campbell	1,424	0	0
"Magdalena."—751 acres 2 roods 5 perches, sold to M. I. Bodia	977	0	0
"Curragh."—503 acres 2 roods 1 perch, sold to Cornforth and Van Tonder ...	1,082	10	6
"Perth."—543 acres 1 rood 21 perches, sold to M. I. Bodia	1,086	15	0

Evidence taken on farm "Weltevreden," division of Dundee, on March 14th 1917.

The Widow CRONJE.] This farm ("Weltevreden") has been occupied for nearly 50 years. As far as I am concerned I do not wish to sell the land at any price. My husband is buried here and I do not want the blacks to own the place, so I do not wish to be included in the native area.

Mr. P. CRONJE.] I would recommend the exclusion from the native area of the following farms: "Mooidoorn Hoek," "Kakanina's Kraal," "Weltevreden" and "Geduld."

Report of Evidence taken at Nqutu, Zululand, in Magistrate's Court Room, during afternoon of March, 17th, 1917.

Present: Mr. J. T. Braadvedt, Acting Magistrate, Nqutu; Revd. Archdeacon Johnson.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly, consisting of less than a dozen farmers from the Nqutu and Nondweni areas (the latter is not included in native area).

Mr. P. C. NIENABER.] It is so funny for me to think that the Nondweni does not fall in the native area, because the worst piece of land is the Nondweni district. The Government kept this part for the gold. We wish to keep the farms, but if the Government want to take the farms let them do so and give us better farms as compensation and leave Nqutu out.

By Mr. Evans.] I hold a Nondweni farm. I would be compensated if I was given another farm in exchange—I would be satisfied, with, of course, allowance for improvements and what I have done on the farm. It is better to leave the Nqutu farms out because they are suited for white people. We will be quite satisfied if the Government give us compensation for the lands we are living on now and give us better farms up here.

By Mr. Chapman.] My farm is 1,000 acres. Most of them are 800 to 1,000 acres in extent. There are 10 farms altogether in the Nondweni area. We would prefer to have Nondweni included and be given farms in this locality.

Mr. C. J. H. LAAS (Nondweni settler).] It would be better if Nondweni farmers could be given land at Nqutu in exchange for their lots, for educational and social reasons.

By Mr. Evans.] It is all high land towards the north of Nqutu; there is better land there than at the Nondweni.

Mr. J. C. POLLOCK.] Now, as far as this bit of high land at Nqutu is concerned, I would like to try to point out that the land is of much more value to the white people than it would be to natives for the reason that the arable land abutting on this particular piece of land is so limited that to-day this land is producing 80 per cent. or perhaps 100 per cent. more by being used by white people than it possibly could if it was used by natives.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is very good for sheep, horses and cattle. As far as I can say (I have studied the natives; I am colonial born and I have had a lot to do with natives) the natives are quite satisfied with us here, and it is a safeguard to the country by having white men located about these big areas. Some people say the magistrate can find out what is going on. In my opinion it is quite wrong, because a thief is not coming near the court house. Private individuals have a much better opportunity of finding out this sort of thing than they can at the court house. No, I do not think natives would buy land there, even if they had the means. It is not suitable for natives; it is too cold and too high. They are people who want their lands about their doors. There was no occupation by natives on top of the hill; it was merely a piece of summer grazing for them. It is one of the best parts for horses, perhaps, in South Africa. I can quite safely say there were not more than 20 huts on the whole of that piece of land, and they were right on the fringe. There was no sign of cultivation whatever on the top, but on my part—on the slopes—there was a certain amount, but in no other part was there any sign of cultivation. The soil on top is good; it is only a matter of what we are all coming to—we have to go in for cultivation and fertilise. Those who have not got low-lying land must fertilise to get good crops. Everybody on top of the hill is perfectly satisfied with the land they have got. I am certainly convinced I can make a good living there. I have 1,000 acres and my son has 500. Less than 1,000 acres is really not worth having. I said it was impossible for a man on top with 500 acres to make a living and then it was decided to grant 1,000 acres. Sheep do splendidly there—winter and summer —without inoculation. I started on 20th March three year ago. I bought 300 sheep and I kept them separate. I have 800 now and they were not in lamb then. I have 800 on

1,000 acres, and I think that is good enough, as I do not provide for them. I do not feed in winter; they have mealie stalks—about 50 to 60 acres. I lamb in winter and the ewes carry their lambs through winter without feeding. They cannot all do it. It is because I have a certain amount of low-lying land. The others can do it if they put in green stuff just as well as I can. You would get about 7 bags (mealies) for the first three years without fertiliser, with proper farming methods. After that you must fertilise. The rainfall is fairly good.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, a man should have 1,000 acres. It is a small community, granted, but it is very good to have it there, although there would be only room for 9 men. Yes, we are under disabilities at present as regards schooling. We cannot afford a school just now. I have to send my children away to school. There are hardly enough children here at present. Although a few only, we are quite prepared to take our own risks and we will fight for ourselves. We quite appreciate what the Government is doing for us and sooner than lose our land we are quite willing to fight our own battles.

By Mr. Chapman.] The lands were thrown open in 1907. I have had my farm 10 years (in June next). I started with one horse and £60 and I consider I have spent £1,200 hard cash on my farm. To-day I have my 800 sheep, 20 horses and the whole farm is fenced. I have my dipping tank and everything there. I have cattle on shares. I consider the improvements on my farm would be valued at £1,500 including buildings, trees, fencing, etc.

By Mr. Evans.] If I was forced to go, I would agree to being compensated, of course, my feeling is I would sooner leave the country, and if I leave there are six votes leave the country.

The Ven. Archdeacon JOHNSON.] I am thoroughly in sympathy with the endeavour of the Government in its scheme of segregation. I own—or rather my son does, and he is a minor—a farm of 1,000 acres on the top of the hill. I think that in the scheme of segregation the whole of the Nqutu district ought to be taken into the native area, and Nondweni as well. I think that the farmers on the top of Nqutu, and I am sure all the farmers at Nondweni would be contented if they could get farms of the same quality as theirs outside the native area. That this little settlement at Nqutu here is too small to even hope that they may have facilities for education. That if it remains as a little piece in the middle of a native area it will be very, very hard to farm indeed, and I consider it would be impossible under the present conditions to increase this area, to enlarge it for European occupation; that the natives are too densely settled. The land towards Telezi is very, very densely populated. There are a good many plantations of wattles belonging to the natives themselves, and it would be uprooting the natives too much to move them—moving hundreds and hundreds to give one European a settlement. Unless the area were increased here it would be far better for the Europeans to be given farms in the European area—wherever it may be, where natives are expropriated (as we know they will be) in other parts of the colony. That it would be better for the Europeans to move away from just a centre of natives. It would be nearly impossible—I have lived nearly all my life amongst them—to have a sheep farm amongst them if the whole of this is to be a native area except just a little settlement of Europeans on the Nqutu. My feeling is that it would be better for the Europeans, better for the natives, to make this a native area entirely, and that the few Europeans who are here should have other land of similar quality given to them in exchange in another part of the colony. I think that natives who are expropriated in other parts would come and buy here on the top. I know they would. I am perfectly sure they would. I do not say that these natives who are settled here would—even some of these might—but natives from European areas which will be expropriated; that these would be willing to come and buy land here, when they have seen it is possible to make a living. Hitherto there has been no facility for buying; it has not been possible for a native to buy land in this district anywhere. I think it would be a great hardship as far as Nondweni is concerned, because if Nondweni were made a European area in the middle of a native area, as it would be, the same would apply. I know the Nondweni area—I have some relatives there—and I think the boundary ought to take that which at the present time is marked off for Europeans, taking the original Zululand border; that that ought to be the boundary. From what I know, the Europeans there, rather than live in the middle of a native area, would be glad to get other land in other parts.

By Mr. Evans.] There is very little water in the Nondweni area. There are one or two fair farms (the best has not been apportioned yet), but the generality of the farms is very much poorer than this land on the top of the Nqutu. There are, I think, 9 owners actually residing there. The farms have been allotted very recently—about two years. Two of the 9 are storekeepers; there are 7 or 8 non-storekeeping residents there. I would like to emphasise very strongly again that all this district here by the Telezi is very, very thickly populated by natives. It would be nearly impossible, in justice to the natives, to move them from that densely populated centre to make proper sized farms for Europeans to develop.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the whole of the area is very thickly populated considering their present wasteful methods of cultivation. Under a good and proper system it would carry nearly double. The Telezi is the choicest part of the whole district, both for

agriculture and for stock. In my own mind I am perfectly sure that natives who wished to purchase land would do so on the top of the Nqutu. The natives generally prefer to live in communal form, but there are some who have large flocks of sheep who will be crowded out unless they can buy some place where they can have the sole right to a certain number of acres. I believe the Europeans would prefer to move if they were provided with other farms. I am sure they would benefit by it. I have discussed it with some. I think the Nondweni residents would be prepared to go elsewhere rather than stay in a large native area. They would much prefer, I think, to remove. I consider that the Government made a very grave mistake in allotting the Nqutu area. I consider it was one of the causes of the rebellion. It was the grazing ground for the whole of Mehlokazulu's people. I have seen thousands and thousands of sheep and goats, as well as horses, there ,and it was kept for that purely—as grazing ground. The cutting up of their grazing ground was such a very sore thing with the natives in this district.

Mr. Chapman.] Yet you took up two of these same farms?

Archdeacon Johnson.] I was very much opposed to it. I would have nothing to do with it originally, but when it was once a European area the position was different. My son is a minor. I did not consider the disadvantages he would be under from an educational point of view. It has been mooted that sugar-lands on the coast should be kept entirely for Europeans. I should like to put in my protest against that. I do think that in justice to our natives—they are advancing in civilisation—that there ought to be one area, at any rate, where they might be able to buy small plots of land and raise sugar. I do not think the natives ought to be barred entirely from the sugar lands. I wish that it could come within the European scheme to have one area as a neutral area, where natives might make their own arrangements with Europeans, or Europeans with natives. That I do think it would be a safety valve for a great deal of discontent—just one area. My idea was to a great extent in Zululand here, taking part of Zululand and part of Dundee district. Also in Eshowe district and Proviso B.—nearly the whole of Proviso B. would benefit if that were made a neutral area. It is land which would be suitable for Europeans and natives. I also think that the Impapala lots (a closer settlement scheme for natives) should be included in the native area.

Mr. J. C. Pollock.] There is ample room here for a large native population and their stock also if they are properly supervised.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there is scab in this district amongst both native and European flocks. We are not going to kick against Government if they can prove that they must absolutely have this land, but we are not satisfied. I am quite satisfied to remain under the conditions explained to me sooner than leave the land. I would remain on that area and every other man would do the same. We are not here for speculative purposes. I have five sons and we see the possibility of making a good living.

Mr. J. T. POTGIETER.] I agree with what Mr. Pollock says. We are all against that Act. We are quite satisfied with our farms on the hill here and the improvements which have been made. These farms are of more help to the Europeans than to the natives.

Mr. J. C. Pollock.] Yes, the lands have changed hands. I am the only original owner. If a man cannot make a living out of a Nqutu farm then he should get out and let someone else do it. He can bring up his family and be very comfortable on 1,000 acres. We can only make a suggestion: that if the Nqutu lots can be extended right along it would be a very good thing indeed to have an increased area. As far as the Nqutu farms are concerned, we are unanimous, with the exception of the Archdeacon, who is speaking for his natives, and he has not spent any money on Nqutu. I am rather an old man to start a new farm and I should be very down-hearted if I had to start again.

Mr. Nienaber and *Mr. Laas* both spoke again in furtherance of their proposal to bring the Nondweni farms into the native area, present owners to be given land higher up—the Telezi District was indicated as being most suitable. Both speakers said the Nondweni community would welcome the exchange, Mr. Laas stating they would take land in other suitable districts, if need be. They would not like to leave if monetary compensation only was made. They would prefer a settlement to be joined on to the Nqutu farms, the combined area of which would justify better educational facilities.

The meeting terminated at about 4 p.m.

COPY.

"Good Hope,"
Nqutu,
May 7th, 1917.

Messrs. Evans & Chapman,
Natives' Land Committee,
Pietermaritzburg.

Gentlemen,—I regret not being able to avail myself of the opportunity of appearing before your Commission at the court house, Nqutu, on the 17th March last to protest

against my farm Lot No. 9, Nqutu, being included in the native area. I have already spent over £1,700 on the property, details of which I shall be pleased to submit when called upon in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. A. DUNCAN.

COPY.

Isandhlwana,
Nqutu district, Zululand,
17th March, 1917.

To the Chairman,
Lands Commission,
Nqutu.

Sir,—R. L. Flindt, owner of holdings in Nqutu division, being absent on active service, and I, his wife, being unable to go to Nqutu, am desirous of placing before you the facts that the holdings owned by him were not taken up for speculative purposes, but to make a permanent home. His and my age are against us starting on another farm. We would not readily, if at all, obtain a farm with the advantages this one possesses. A clause in our title says we cannot sell to anyone not of European descent.

Should this area be proclaimed native area and surrounding farms be occupied by natives, it would be an impossibility to farm on account of their thieving propensities and that it would be very hard on people being squeezed out. Intelligent people not having the means to purchase freehold property have sacrificed much in these parts to obtain their ground.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) L. JEAN FLINDT,
Wife of R. Leighton Flindt.

Report of Evidence taken at Paulpietersburg, Natal, in Magistrate's Court Room, during forenoon of 20th March, 1917.

Precent: Mr. D. A. Adamson, Magistrate, Paulpietersburg, who kindly acted as Dutch interpreter.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly, numbering about a dozen. No Farmers' Association was represented, but it was understood the audience were mainly members of the South African Party.

Mr. J. D. RUDOLPH (interpreted).] I own portions 1 and 2 of "Verdriet" in the proposed native area. I only wish to say this morning that the land as it is cut off has been known to me for the past 38 years and for a long portion of that period I was Sub-Native Commissioner, under the Boer regime. The farms in this area were thickly populated by natives during 1880, and gradually year by year they became less for the reason that the rainfall decreased; rinderpest decimated their herds, and they (the natives) became poverty-stricken. Up to the present day they have to purchase their food. There are not many natives there now and they have barely sufficient arable land for their own purposes. It is my opinion that the ground is not suitable for the purpose for which it is intended. Assuming that other natives are sent into that area, where will they plant? I am convinced that no native living outside of that area will voluntarily go into it; therefore the purpose for which the area is intended will not be accomplished. As the Magistrate has probably experienced himself, even in my time these natives were always in arrears with their taxes owing to their poverty-stricken state, and I believe the same applies up to the present day.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, this is mainly due to rinderpest. They had a few cattle together again after rinderpest, but East Coast fever came and wiped them off. The natives living in the native area will not possibly be in a position to purchase any land there, so matters will remain as they are; and what will become of the European who owns ground in the area?

By Mr. Evans.] The rainfall was much greater then than now. The land is good in patches; it is a hard, broken country. (Magistrate states rainfall average about 35 inches per annum—nearly always in the "thirties"). The rainfall is less there than in Paulpietersburg and it is naturally a hotter country. The seasons have changed wonderfully since between 1880 and 1890. Frost was never known there, but now the frost kills everything, because of the small rainfall, and the grass does not grow as well as it formerly did. I draw labour from the farm, which I use for winter grazing, for sheep latterly. I formerly took my cattle there.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is difficult to say if there is any land better suited for a Kafir location, because all the land is privately owned. The Europeans find that land indispensable to them for winter grazing. They go there even from the Transvaal. I should say certainly that the Ngotshe division is more suitable for a Kafir location, because there is more soft ground. I have a farm in the Ngotshe division.

By Mr. Evans.] I think the rainfall further east would be about the same as in the proposed area. It is drier towards the Mkuzi. Formerly there was malaria in the river valleys—Pongolo and others—but not to any great extent now.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the natives live on the high veld and plough in the valleys. In the olden days the village of Paulpietersburg was malarious.

Mr. P. J. WESSELS (in English).] I only wish to say that I can quite agree with Mr. Rudolph and wish to add that in my opinion I think there are quite sufficient Crown Lands in this portion for the purpose of native reserves in this division. The Crown Lands as they are now in Paulpietersburg division are quite ample for native purposes.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think natives will ever have the means to buy, but if they did perhaps they would. There is not too much fever on the Crown Lands in this division, except those in the Pongolo, and you will find many natives there; they are more after the game, I think. From a native point of view the low-lying ground would be better. As regards the rainfall, my experience is that the further you get down east towards the Ubombo the less rain you get. Sometimes in the bushveld you do not get more than 3 or 4 inches in the year. I am only speaking for this division; the natives are all farm labourers. There are no rent paying natives in this division. I have had a lot to do with natives since the late Boer War, and I find that since the war more natives have trekked out from this portion cut off up country than natives have trekked down. The reason for that is that they complain they did not have enough land for ploughing purposes. The ground there is very, very poor. There were no restrictions as to the amount they could have; it was very poor.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, white people could grow crops down there on some farms. There are a few—not many. Mr. Rudolph's and Mr. Labuschagne's are good. I certainly think that the portion cut off from this division is most unsuitable. In my opinion, I do not think there is any necessity for cutting off land for natives in this division. I think the Crown Land is quite sufficient. Yes, if there *must* be land, then that is the only portion which is not occupied by Europeans—there are about 8.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, I do not think there are any natives who are eager to buy land; they could not. As far as I know, they are not keen on it. There is not a single native or group of natives in this division who could buy land. They have not expressed any wish to.

By Mr. Evans.] The country towards the Pongolo in the Ngotshe Division has no Europeans at all, very few natives, too. The natives in that portion are after the game.

By Mr. Chapman.] As a whole, the Ngotshe Division is more suitable for a native area. I would not take the whole of the Ngotshe Division; I would take the eastern portion. Water is very scarce in the thorns there. You might get it by boring. There are very few progressive farmers in the division, especially on the eastern side. It was fairly well populated in the old days—not the bushveld, but portions of it. Fever is much worse now. There is no malaria in the winter.

Mr. G. J. COMBRINCK (interpreted).] I live at Makatee's Kop, and am not interested personally in the recommended area. I have been specially requested by the public to appear before the Committee to-day. I wish to say that I quite agree with what has been said by Mr. Rudolph. I do not think that area will answer the purpose for which it was intended, because it is necessary, if you wish to create a native location, to give them sufficient agricultural land. The Committee, I presume, is unacquainted with that area, but, knowing it as I do, I say it is only fit for pastoral purposes. I have just heard that the Committee visited a portion of that area, but I can assure them that at the outside only a quarter of that area can be ploughed.

By Mr. Evans.] Certainly, there were more natives there formerly. Compared with former days, there are at present very few natives now living there. They trekked away from there. It is quite a number of years since they reaped sufficient grain for their own purposes. I would say that hunger chased them away; they came this way.

Mr. G. W. Adamson.] That was occupied by a Swazi tribe; they have become "Zulu-ised" entirely.

Mr. Combrinck (continuing).] Malaria depends on the seasons: in some seasons there is none whatever and it is bad during others. It was certainly more prevalent in former

years, because malaria occurred in Paulpietersburg itself. It is more prevalent in wet seasons than in dry ones.

By Mr. Chapman.] I know the Ngotshe Division fairly well. I should say it is more suitable for a native location. I should think it would dispossess fewer people by making an area there than by taking small pieces of land in different divisions. I would advocate it. It would be best to dissatisfy one person rather than several.

By Mr. Evans.] As far as I know the ground you indicated in Ngotshe Division is softer than in the proposed area. Health conditions would be about the same. There would be malaria in the low veld, but you find natives living there. It is better for the native himself to be living together in a block. I do not agree with the Dundee opinion that it is better for natives to be mixed up with whites.

By Mr. Chapman.] I would not like to have a Kafir next to me. I would prefer to see them in a block and have my ordinary labour on the farm.

Mr. J. P. NORTJE.] I own two farms in this proposed native area—"Schurwerand" and "Kleinfontein." I have had the former for the last four years and am occupying it for nine months out of the year. I have effected improvements on this farm, including a cattle dipping tank. Of all the Crown lands this farm "Schurwerand" was more thickly populated than any by natives. When I came on to the farm six of the kraals gave me notice to quit. I asked for their reason. They said because of the scarcity of food. I said: "As far as I can see the ground seems quite fertile." Some of them said that they had been living on the ground for the past 30 years, and they had regularly to buy food every year, and over and above that they had to pay squatter's rent to Government. Some of them said they were as much as £30 to £40 in arrear with their squatter's rent. (The Magistrate states this is so: that there is over £1,000 outstanding which cannot be got in). I then told them I would make improvements on the farm, amongst others build a dipping tank, get cattle down and plough for them. It was a bad season, and my crops were a total failure. I spent a good bit of money in fertilizer the following year, but the same thing happened—a total failure of the crops. Those six kraals left the farm. I advised them not to leave the division of Paulpietersburg, and recommended that they should go on two Crown land farms—"Lang Spruit" and "Slang Spruit," which are very suitable for occupation. They replied that the natives on those two farms were in the same position as they were, and they preferred going into Vryheid District. Some of the remaining kraals wanted to quit my farm, but I supplied them with food and they remained. I told them we would try another year. I brought 150 head of cattle on the farm. I arranged to assist them by allowing them to dip their cattle free, and in lieu of money I would pay their children cattle—that is those who worked for me. Amongst other things I planted a large number of peach trees. I purchased the farm "Kleinfontein" privately for £1,400. I said: "We will have another try." We planted about 12 bags of mealies, and spent £50 or £60 in other ways. The same thing has happened—no crops. There are different reasons for it: first year—drought; second year—drought, and last year—drought and witchweed. I am sorry the Committee could not have visited this farm. Malaria has occurred on "Schurwerand" every year since I occupied it—not so bad some years, but there has been malaria every year.

By Mr. Evans.] There were two deaths last year, one this, and there are four ill now. During the winter months there must be fully 40,000 sheep in that area. I have decided to use my farm as a cattle ranch—to introduce as many cattle as possible.

By Mr. Chapman. I am not quite sure as to charges for grazing sheep. I believe that from £50 to £60 is paid every season for 1,500 acres. It is as good winter grazing for sheep—for six months—as you can get. I inoculated during October last successfully. I have already sold 1,400 sheep and am going in for cattle. One portion of my farm is very high and good for sheep.

By Mr. Evans.] Taking from "Baviaan's Krantz" right to "Schurwerand" you cannot do any ploughing whatever.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not think drought is the main reason of failure. The main reason is that the soil is so poor. I am referring to my farm "Schurwerand"; it is very hot there.

Mr. J. H. A. HAMBROCK (interpreted).] I own the farm "Pivaan's Poort" in that area. After hearing Mr. Rudolph there is very little for me to say. I wish to say that I have been living here (near Makatee's Kop) for the past 20 years. I have been through the district from corner to corner on many occasions and I am of the same opinion as Mr. Rudolph that the area is not suitable for the purpose for which it was intended. As far as I can remember, since the conclusion of the war, the crops have failed every year with the exception of one. The reason why I know this is that I myself send down mealies to that area every year for sale. On my own farm "Pivaan's Poort" I have to supply my tenants with food every year since I purchased it three years ago. I am also aware of the fact that there are considerably less natives in that area now than in former years. The main reason is scarcity of food. In former years the natives owned large numbers of cattle and when their crops failed they had no difficulty in exchanging cattle for mealies. They could exist then, but since the loss of their cattle through rinderpest it is impossible for

the natives to exist there unless they get food from elsewhere. There is no native who will purchase ground in that area.

By Mr. Chapman.] I sent about 700 bags of mealies there this year. Crops depend on the rainfall. It is possible that there was more rain where you saw crops than elsewhere. This year has had a very good rainfall.

By Mr. Evans.] During the early portion of the season crops promised well. I have not been down there for the last two months, but my natives say they will hardly reap anything. I agree with a previous speaker that it is not advisable to have these small areas all over; sooner make it one block. I would add as much as possible, if necessary, to the Zululand reserves.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I should say that the Ngotshe Division would be suitable for natives where it is not occupied by Europeans. I think it is unadvisable to have small areas scattered all over.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, native stock is increasing since dipping. There are 12 kraals on "Pivaan's Poort." They supply me with labour in lieu of paying rent. A few natives have died down there, but I cannot say whether from malaria or not.

Mr. C. T. LABUSCHAGNE (interpreted).] I own sub-divisions 2, 3 and 4 of "Naauwkloof" in the recommended area, but live close to Makatee's Kop on "Nooitgedacht." I came to this district in 1880 from the Ladysmith division. With the London Convention of 1880 the farms in this area were handed over to the Boer Government. It was Zululand at the time and, of course, the natives occupied the land. I quite agree that the Government should meet the natives as well as the Europeans. There is not a native kraal on "Naauwkloof," which I purchased in 1888, and there have been no natives on it from then up to the present on sub-division 3. Let us take the value of that portion 3; I hire that portion for sheep grazing and receive £40 per annum for each of the sub-divisions and I have the right to graze my own stock thereon in addition.

By Mr. Evans.] I merely hire out that farm for grazing purposes, reserving for myself the right to run stock there. It is not occupied. I would take natives with pleasure, but, as I have already said, when the country was their own they did not occpuy, because there is no arable land. It is stony, hard ground. There are natives on the adjoining farms, which are more suitable for natives than my own. The rain is not sufficient for good crops in those parts. It is a very hot country there. There are a few kraals on Lot 2. I do not think this area will answer the purpose for which it is intended. One of my reasons is that the natives who were living on Lot 4 of "Naauwkloof" trekked right away.

By Mr. Chapman.] No there are positively no natives who could buy land if they had the opportunity. Our land is not suitable. The last witness has been ploughing somewhat extensively on his farm for some years and even now, with fertilizer, he gets very poor results. This is a pastoral district for cattle: it is not a good agricultural country.

Mr. J. H. LABUSCHAGNE (interpreted).] I am the owner of portion 1 of "Naauwkloof." I have been living here for the past 38 years at "Elandsberg," beyond Makatee's Kop. For several years I was an official of the late South African Republic, and was a member of the Volksraad. The district is well known to me. I know the whole area recommended for natives. I wish, myself, to be associated with those residents of Natal who are opposed to the creation of native areas and to the legislation on the subject. I agree with the speech made by Colonel Greene at Newcastle on the 24th February—that the law of 1913 is a most unsuitable one for Natal—and I will join in a petition to His Majesty the King not to allow the passing of this law. I lived in Natal for many years and in those days there were location lands which exist to the present day, and matters with these locations worked well until the passing of the 1913 Act. It is hardly necessary for me to say anything because the idea of the proposed area is so unnecessary.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I would not mind the old order of things continuing; it is the lesser of the evils. I know that a native cannot buy ground adjoining me. If they did, then I must endure it. (Various questions as to the provisions of the draft Act were here answered by the Committee.) I conclude by saying I am entirely in accord with what Mr. Rudolph has said: that the proposed area is wholly unsuitable for the purpose, not because I have an interest in it, but I am speaking from 38 years' experience.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I have known that area for 38 years. In the early days there were many more natives there. I think it carried as many natives then as it could. They then owned a large number of stock and they could make a living. They did plough, but the land is not suitable for agricultural purposes. I put it down entirely to the fact that the rain became less and less. I have noticed on my own farm that formerly we had much more rain than of recent years. Unless the Almighty arranges a heavier rainfall it will never be suitable for agriculture. Formerly there was no Johannesburg, and it is only latterly, when the native found he could get money there, that he went there. Then he had to work for his masters. The great thing that drove them out was famine. It will pay us if the Government create a location here so that we can dispose of our mealies, but they have no money.

By Mr. Chapman.] The value varies from £1 to £2 a morgen for grazing purposes.

Mr. H. H. KOLBE.] With that portion of Paulpietersburg District I am not very well acquainted personally, but I find that the great objection for cutting up that part as a native reserve amongst people is that it is, in the first place, abutting too near to the town. The natives there will be a source of trouble to the farmers adjoining and also to the town of Paulpietersburg. People owning land in that portion to be cut off object as they will get no native buyers for their farms, and the consequence will be they will be surrounded by natives. They will stick with their farm amongst the natives. It will be of no use to them and then they will have to give it away for next to nothing. That is one of their main objections. As far as I am concerned, I cannot exactly follow some of the witnesses here, to say that this portion is no good for natives and yet it is good for Europeans. I would also like to see the Europeans in the best part of the country.

By Mr. Chapman.] I certainly think the great objection will vanish if Government decide to buy those farms direct from them and then dispose of them to natives. I think the matter is not quite well enough known yet by the public to see the evil in the future —that the natives buy land all over the country; to see what a source of trouble that is going to be to the white man, and that it is going to be one of the causes of the poor white population, which is increasing. I think that if the Government does not take any steps now to separate the white man and the natives, I am afraid in a few years to come the white people will have to work for the natives. I must say I am in favour of this Act and I sincerely trust it will go through, but I would like to see that the Government made better provision for these people owning land in these areas: to pay them out, and, of course, they can for themselves get ground anywhere else. I would also like to see that the Government passes a law that those natives owning land in the high veld in those European areas, that they shall be forced to sell their farms to the Government or any white man, and in that way separate them. (Mr. Evans pointed out that this is the underlying principle). I must say with regard to Pivaan's Rand, I do not think it is quite suitable for native occupation. Where a native settled he wants to do some ploughing and get his crop, and if he does not get it he will have to steal. The area is too stony and hard, and I do not think it is suitable for agriculture. There is absolutely no ploughing done down there and any area cut off for a native location should be agricultural above grazing ground. This area is more suitable for winter grazing than for agriculture.

NATIVE EVIDENCE.

Five chiefs with about 80 followers present. Mr. O. Zunckel, Clerk of Court, interpreted.

The magistrate introduced the Committee and Mr. Chapman made the usual introductory address.

Chief VUSINDHLU.] We were pleased at what we were informed by the Government. —that these areas would simply be put apart for natives alone. With regard to the area in this district, it is one of the worst portions in the division for agricultural purposes and we could hardly be expected to buy ground down there. That portion of the district is where the European makes his money in that he is continually taking down mealies to sell amongst the natives. We are the children of the Government and at the time when Cetshwayo was removed we were left in this land here. We are the subjects of the Government and the worst part of the district has been apportioned to us. We rely on the Government for better ground; the present ground is, as I have said, no use.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am aware that there are other areas in other districts.

By Mr. Evans.] There were more natives in this part formerly when it still formed part of Zululand and was not cut up into farms. It was thickly populated. It was inhabited by the Dhlamini tribe, but since it was no use for agricultural purposes the majority left and crossed into the Transvaal or up the Pongolo. The seasons were more favourable in the early days and the people had more cattle then. The natives in that area are "lobola-ing" only with goats now. There is plenty of grazing there.

By Mr. Chapman.] The natives have decreased in that area on account of malaria and also scarcity of food. I have not heard of anyone being turned off by landlords. It is on account of the drought and disease that they have left there. We cannot cultivate as much as we did in the old times on account of the farmers. The fever has got worse of late years. There is fever in all the Pongolo Valley towards Ngotshe.

Chief GOBOTSHANA (living at Luneberg).] I can only repeat what the first speaker has said; that the area in this district is one we do not care about on account of it being a bad agricultural district. I only know a small portion of the area, viz. where Mr. Labuschagne lives. Further down I do not know, but I hear there is much fever there.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am not certain, but I should say natives with stock might go down into this area.

Chief NGULUBE.] We are children of the Government and I cannot see why the Government should want to take us away from our old kraal sites and put us in that place. Why should we be put where those of the Bateni already live? (The neceessary explanation is given by Mr. Evans.) We amongst ourselves have not discussed this matter. I should like to say we are not all agreed upon the point.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, we were told by the Government, but we did not hear what the decision of Government was then.

Chief MACIBANA (living in the proposed area).] The area in this district is worth nothing. It is full of fever. We have lived there for a long time. We have all died off from fever. If that area is opened for sale and natives go and buy there, what is to become of us? We should not like to make room for any natives buying ground there who would remove us from our old kraal sites. That area is worth nothing.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, in former times there were many more people there. They have died off from sickness. Many have moved away also. Sickness only has driven them away. I cannot count how many people died there. People die all over the area; I cannot say if it is fever. I do not know what is to become of us on account of the fever in this district. I should say that the sickness is worse now than formerly.

Mr. Chapman.] I have lived in many districts in Zululand for many years, and I have never heard such a statement with regard to fever as witness has made to-day. I will go further and say I am not prepared to believe that man when he says that fever is bad in all that area.

Chief Macibana.] High-veld makes no difference to "mkuhlana" or fever.

Chief MTSHUTULWANA.] It would be impossible for us to buy ground there, as we have no money. All the money we have we give to the Government. We living on the high-veld would not like to go and live there.

Chief MKEZENI.] We thank the Government for explaining this matter to us to-day, and we are also pleased that land has been set aside to give us an opportunity to buy. We thank the Government for having promised to look after our interests.

By Mr. Chapman.] Fever is not very bad: some years there is a lot and others not. The land is not bad for agriculture. The good soil goes only as far as my land. Further down it is not good. Even if it does not rain the crops turn out well. The ground gathers moisture very quickly: it is high-veld (Witness is referring to higher up the Pongolo, where he lives). The fever comes on the high-veld some years.

ALBERT MANXELE.] We are surprised to hear to-day that the ground allotted for the natives in this area is to be bought. In Vryheid we asked the Government to give us a location. We are still waiting for a reply to what we spoke about at Vryheid, but we have received no reply, as promised. We thank Government for explaining this matter to us to-day. Why are not we treated like other tribes, seeing they have locations and we have none? We are open about it; what we want are locations. If Government does not intend to lay out locations, then they should give us land where we can live. It is even impossible for Europeans to live in this area; I am referring to the recommended area.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which dispersed about 1 p.m.

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Louwsburg, Natal, during forenoon of 23rd March, 1917.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly. Mr. Williams, of the magistrate's staff, acted as interpreter.

Present: The Chief Native Commissioner and magistrate, Ngotshe division.

Mr. J. A. SCHOLTZ.] I understand from what you say that some areas may be excluded (this is explained to speaker). I would like to have an alteration of the line which is drawn in the Ngotshe division and would recommend the exclusion of the following farms: "Morgenzon," "Wegspring," "Roodepoort," "Goedgetroffen," "Ehlomahloma," "Landverwacht," "Welverdiend" and "Bloemgaard." This area has nothing to do with the Ngomi area. The reason why I ask for the exclusion of these farms is that they are worth a lot to the Europeans in this district. They are unoccupied to-day, but they can be occupied; they are all good farms. There are enough high veld farms for the natives without including these in the native area and I trust the Committee will have no objection to their exclusion: it is the wish of all the residents in this district. In case of sheep stealing and all that it is far better to have the Europeans as far away from natives as possible. As I understand it, as far as the farms "Bloemgaard," "Goedgetroffen" and "Ehlomahloma" are concerned, the Government would not buy them and the natives will not buy them; they are excellent farms. With regard to the farms "Wegspring" and

"Roodepoort," I would like them excluded, although they are not occupied to-day. They are valuable farms. As regards Ngomi, the farms I would like to ask the Committee to exclude are: The Nogmi Forest, "Langewacht," "Kruishoudklip," "Zaagkuil," "Legerplaats," "Tygers Kloof," "Isihlengeni," "Magdalena," "Mooiplaats," "Mountain View" (a portion belongs to Government). Four of these farms are occupied by the owners. The reason why I ask for the exclusion of the Forest is this: About 25 years ago hundreds of people made their living in the bush there. If the forest falls in the native area, I suggest that it be excluded altogether, so that arrangements may be made for work for poor people there. Not that I wish to work the natives out altogether. I would like the Committee to take our welfare to heart, too, and work for us also. There are so many other farms occupied by the natives. I would like the Committee to meet us in this matter.

By Mr. Evans.] On "Welverdiend" there may be small patches of forest. Yes, all the farms in the white patch between the two pink areas are occupied. I must say that the farms in that patch have more improvements than those I have asked to be excluded. There are houses, but not much else.

By Mr. Chapman.] Cattle are mostly farmed here, but many mealies are planted It is excellent grazing for cattle and sheep. The winter here is not so severe as up country. Our rainfall lately has not been too good, but generally it is fairly good. The majority of the farms in the European area in Ngotshe division are all occupied, excepting those along the Pongolo. The farms in the Pongolo Valley are too stony, and there is fever. The country all along the Mkuzi is only fit for winter grazing; no one goes down in the summer. Sheep go as far as "Bergendaal," "Uitkomst" and "Morgenzon"; the first farms in the area (for sheep) go just on the edge of the reserve. The remainder of the district is good grazing for cattle. Before the East Coast fever thousands of cattle went down to the low veld; it is splendid winter grazing.

Mr. K. POTGIETER.] Those farms which Mr. Scholtz has asked to be excluded are all good sheep farms; every winter sheep go down there. As regards the Ngomi area, I am very well acquainted with it and the natives living there. If the Ngomi district is included in the native area they will chop down all the wood. The Ngomi forest will be worth a lot; for sixteen years the Government has guarded it and saved lots of wood there. I am against this—if the Committee is going to include this as a native area, now that it is ready for sawing.

Mr. M. KOEKEMOER.] Referring to the farms Mr. Scholtz asked to be excluded from the native area, some of them are not occupied now, but some are occupied and now the population is increasing we will require them. They are used for winter sheep grazing and are good cattle farms, but we cannot trek on to all of them on account of East Coast fever. They are good for agriculture, but we are handicapped at present on account of tick fever, in that we cannot get fresh oxen to plough with; we have a few, but not many. I hope the Ngomi forest will be excluded from the native area. The locality is occupied by Europeans, and it is a good check. We can use the wood for our own country instead of importing from Europe.

Mr. D. J. LOUW.] I am of the same opinion as Mr. Scholtz as regards the exclusion of the farms he has mentioned. At first I was of the opinion that we could not include any farms in the Ngotshe Division in the native area, *i.e.* no farm at all. I have been here over thirty years, and I think of the past,, when we had a lot of cattle—before tick fever—that part (the low veld) was our only refuge for winter grazing. All these farms which are included in the native area to-day were full of cattle before tick fever. If we stamp out East Coast fever, I do not know where we are going to send our cattle to for winter grazing then if this becomes native area. It has been decided by the Government to include these farms in the native area, but if they exclude those farms Mr. Scholtz pointed out I will be quite satisfied, and I trust you will be able to draw the proper line as shown by Mr. Scholtz.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there are a good many natives in the recommended area, but there are a few farms which are unoccupied by natives. Generally speaking, it is fairly well populated by natives. In the other parts of the division there are natives on all the farms. They live on the farms and furnish labour in lieu of rent. Before, I used to make my natives pay rent, but then they did not work for me. This has all been changed; all my natives work for me now. They have got to work six months in the year free, *i.e.* receive no pay. After that six months, if I have any other work for them, I pay them 15s. a month. My natives can then go and seek work elsewhere; there are a lot of them on the Rand. Those conditions pertain generally in the division.

By Mr. Evans.] In some farms in the recommended area there are very few natives. Down towards the Pongolo—"Nooitgedacht" way—there are very few natives. Between the two rivers, on the flat on this side of "Magut" there are many natives. There is not much water there, but natives can get it.

Mr. J. H. HATTINGH.] I have not much to say; if we can get what Mr. Scholtz has asked for I will have nothing more to say and will be satisfied.

Mr. W. P. DE WET.] I was living on the farm "Langewacht" for about two years and had the chance of doing some agricultural work there; it was a great success. I was only a beginner, but the last year I got 500 bags of mealies. I agree with Mr. Scholtz

that the farm "Langewacht" and the other farms should be excluded. A portion of the forest lies on the farms "Mountain View," "Langewacht," "Mooiplaats," "Tygers Kloof" and a few other farms. Now, at the present moment, there are more cattle belonging to natives down towards Magut than in the other parts of the Ngotshe Division. Between the Nyalisa and Rooi Rand and the other (east) side of Rooi Rand towards the Sivumo—on the flats this side of the Rooi Rand and on the hills and lower down, very close to the Ubombo, there are Kafirs there and quite a lot of cattle. I am Dipping Inspector for the Nalisa area. It is better cattle country than here. They have not had East Coast fever there; the disease went as far as "Wonderboom."

By Mr. Evans.] As far as "Welcome," "Misgund," "Geluk," "Bloemhof," "Verlegen"—there are cattle on these farms. There are hundreds there—about 200 on "Misgund" belonging to natives. There is no "fly" there. The cattle drink at the Mkuzi in winter. There are quite a number of koodoo and waterbuck, also some zebras, on the east side of the Rooi Rand. There are cattle on the farm "Pongolo" and also on "Nooitgedacht"; the natives have over 200 head on the last farm. During summer time they have water close at hand, but in winter they must water at the Pongolo or the Mkuzi. There is game all along the Pongolo, but no "nagana." I do not think anybody has tried digging for water lower down. If water could be found there it would alter the whole position.

Mr. J. A. Scholtz.] Yes, I think water could be got down there. I own the farm "Bedrog," and there is always water there. I am sure by boring one could get a good supply of water. I intend personally to make a dam there.

Mr. de Wet (continuing).] I am expecting a portion of "Langewacht," which is to be divided amongst seven children, of whom I am one. I sold the mealies—when I grew 500 bags—to a storekeeper at Ngomi. I only got one season of mealies. I estimated the yield about 8 bags to the acre. Nobody uses fertiliser. I could use that land without fertiliser or manure for three years, then I would require lime; that is on the high veld near Ngomi forest. The land below "Magut" is very good. There is no reason why natives should not grow as good crops as Europeans if they cultivated well. They are generally too early or too late and they only scratch the top.

Report of Meeting with Natives at Louwsburg, which took place immediately after that with the Europeans.

Present: Chief Native Commissioner and Magistrate, Ngotshe Division (Mr. T. B. Carbutt), who acted as interpreter.

Mr. Chapman made the usual introductory address to the assembly.

Chief MAPOVELA.] We hear what you have said. We are all living on private lands. There are no places to which we can go and even to-day we have to work for the farmers. These areas are not sufficient in size for all the natives. We wish the whole land reserved for us, so that we can be free from landlords as we were in the olden days.

Representative of Chief MABOKO.] We complain that the area recommended is much too small; it should be larger. Why do not the Government restore to us that which at one time belonged to Zululand? It would be quite impossible for all the people—some who have been born on the high veld—to be located in the low country; some of them would die there. If the Government want to benefit themselves, they should extend these areas and also include high lands where we could live together. It is quite unfair for the Government to locate them all in the low country.

By Mr. Evans.] There is very little high veld in the recommended area. I live near the Dhlomadhloma, near the Umkuzi. I was born there and my father before me. I do not see any other high land in the area. By high land I refer to all the land as far as the Blood River—the original boundary. There were a lot of people down there in the old days, but malaria cleared them out. Fever is more prevalent there now than then.

Chief MTSHIGILA.] We are very pleased to have met the Committee, but we were under the impression that the area to be allotted would be very much larger than what it is. We find that it is a very small area; moreover, it comprises all the malarial country in the division. Of course, Government cannot be opposed. It is a fact that the people in the thorn country have decreased through malaria. Any people living on the lands adjoining, we cannot see where they would go to, because we cannot see sufficient lands for them. We are very pleased, notwithstanding this, that anyone leaving a farm can find a place of refuge to go to.

MBANEZIZWE representing Chief KAMBI.] All that Kambi says is that his grievances are known to the magistrate. He has nothing to say other than that the magistrate

will speak for him and represent to the Government his grievances, and that he is quite satisfied with that. Kambi, of course, did not know what the areas were in the district.

Chief SIYUMO.] We hear what has been told us. There is nothing, of course, that we can do for ourselves, and we look to the Government to do everything that is necessary for us. If the Government does that we will be quite satified. We have not much say in these matters; everything hitherto has been left to the Government. It is not necessary for me to say much, as the Government knows how we are situated.

By Mr. Evans.] I live with my people in the recommended area. There are many of us—about 150 kraals—up along the Mkuzi, towards the Nkunzana. We live there because our people have always lived there. Some lived on the hills, some on the flats and some in the valleys. Some of my people have left me and have gone to other places. My people are not on the increase; malaria fever prevents this. It is more prevalent than it used to be. Malaria has been about the same ever since I was a boy; the only time there was not malaria there was during the time my father lived there. Yes, previously all the hills were full of cattle. The disease killed out all our cattle. In places cattle are increasing to-day, but we would like to see them increase faster. I do not know if the cattle will increase under present conditions. Apart from East Coast fever, it is really a good cattle country; disease was practically unknown formerly. I would be quite satisfied to remain in the place where my fathers lived before me.

By Mr. Chapman.] In former days we were on both sides of the Mkuzi. There were none on the flats; they all lived on the hills. We get very heavy crops if we get rains.

Representative of the Chief MAKAKO.] What about the members of tribes in this area—some might be living in the area and some out of it; what would happen to the latter? (He is informed it is a question for the administration to take into consideration).

Chief Maporela.] My people extend right away to the Inhlazatshe. There is malaria in the Isikwebezi Valley. It is a good country when there are rains. I was born there and my people lived there before me. It is a good cattle country. I should be satisfied to remain where I am until I die. If the Government moved I should have to bow to the Government's will, but I expected much more land. Yes, I have grievances; if I could get an area sufficient to take all my people on to I would be quite satisfied.

Representative of Chief Kambi.] Kambi lives at Ntombani, on the farm "Mooiplaats" (top one) in the Ngomi area. Most of the tribe is spread practically all over the western portion of the district; it is scattered about.

Chief Mtshigila.] I live on the farm "Morgenzon" (Scheepers). There is malaria there; it is bad all through that district, but worse in the thorns. Some of my relatives have died there last year and others this. It is a good country for crops if there is rain. It is cattle country. We cannot say if we will get more cattle. I was born there and I would like to remain there.

uKALUBA (a Kolwa native of the Chief MTSHIGILA'S Tribe).] We still have a grievance. I was born in this country and the white people found us living there. The whole of this district formed part of Zululand. We want to know why it is the Government are restricting us in the way they are. I do not see why we should be restricted to the thorn veld only. I was born on the high veld. If we are restricted to the low veld it will simply mean that a lot of us will die. What we want is that the area should be extended further west towards the Hlobane; that is what we want.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which dispersed at about 1 p.m.

COPY.

"Tuinpoort," Manderston, Natal,
June 9th, 1917.

Chief Magistrate,
Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your notice informing me that the Native Lands Commission would sit in your Court Room on the 12th June, 1917, for which I thank you, and regret I cannot attend as I have to be a witness at Camperdown on that date.

I own a farm in Zululand in the Ngotshe Magisterial Division, and I see by the map that it has been marked off with other farms in the native land area, and I understand these farms cannot be sold to Europeans; they have to be sold to natives, which I object to. If the Government want farms for Natives' Land Act then they had better buy them clean out now. This is only one or two points which I bring forward.

Would you oblige me by putting this letter before the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. J. HUTTON.

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Vryheid, Natal, on March 24th, 1917, during the forenoon.

Mr. G. A. H. BRIDSON.] We represent the committee appointed to go into this matter. Last Wednesday we had a public meeting and the report was read to them and was accepted by them unanimously, and so we claim to represent the views of the majority of the district. We have been to some trouble to keep absolutely within the terms of reference, and as regards the first term of reference—land which has been recommended as native area—we wish, Sir, to recommend that no land should be set apart in this district as a native area. Our reason is, firstly the class of native in this district is almost entirely different from what you find in other districts. They are raw boys and are rather frightened if you suggest to them the idea of acquiring land. They say that the white men on private farms look after them and keep them from starving; in fact, there is no desire on the part of the natives to acquire land in this district, which is borne out by the fact that there is only one small native-owned farm of 200 morgen here. On the other side of our borders there is a matter of two million acres set aside for native occupation, and if you take the population of Areas Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in this Commission's Report—this includes the Vryheid and Ngotshe Divisions—if you take the population of the whole of those districts and without allotting any land in Vryheid District there would be very nearly 10 morgen per head for every man, woman and child in those areas. We recommend the exclusion of the Ngotshe area also. There are 323,000 acres in this area. It takes 4·5 morgen to support a native in Natal, yet if they are put in these areas which I have indicated they still have 10 morgen per head. We wish to impress upon you:—

Firstly, the class of native in this district, and secondly, that there are two million acres of land on the other side of our borders.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not contend that there are no natives on those two million acres, but I maintain that their numbers are very, very insignificant. That is all the evidence my committee wish to bring forward as regards the land which is recommended as a native area. Some of those farms in the recommended area are now occupied by as many as six European families. They have been cut up and handed from father to son. I am speaking in general terms. Throughout the district natives live on farms more or less as native tenants. Custom varies considerably: in many instances they supply labour when it is wanted. As far as I know, in every case they receive payment for their labour. Again, some farms are simply occupied by natives who pay rent. The general conditions are that they work instead of paying rent. We feel that we have been especially hardly treated. Sir, taking an analysis of the figures, we find that Newcastle has an area set aside sufficient to supply 50 per cent. of their natives; Maritzburg has 15 per cent., Umzimkulu 5 per cent., Inanda 3 per cent., and in Vryheid there is sufficient land set aside for 115 per cent. of our natives, which means if that land is to be fully occupied we have to import another 10,000 natives.

Mr. S. E. HENWOOD.] With regard to the tenure of natives in this district, the usual practice is that the natives supply six months labour for the landlord and then they are released for the next six months. They pay no rent. I think in the majority of cases, the natives are not paid for that six month's work except a sort of gratuitous payment at the termination thereof. In other cases natives do receive payment for the six months' labour which they supply. In other instances, particularly farms belonging to absentee landlords, the natives are paying rent and are giving no labour. I think the natives come under these three categories as far as our district is concerned.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, that is so. permission has been given for natives to purchase land since the passing of the Natives' Land Act. The Governor-General has given consent to natives to buy land.

Mr. G. VAN DE VENTER.] I was Chairman of the Committee appointed to work along with the Agricultural Society. We drew up a report which was sanctioned by the public and we want to lay the report on the table to-day, so I will request Mr. Brecher to kindly read same.

Mr. B. G. BRECHER reads report (of which copy is annexed) to the meeting in English and Dutch, and says: Our people are quite satisfied with the land that they have to-day, but if compensation is going to be effected, how will it be made? At this stage the Committee explain their duties and limitations carefully to the meeting and answer a number of questions bearing thereon.

Mr. G. A. H. Bridson.] These areas are European-owned at the present day. They have been open for native occupation and yet they are practically unoccupied by natives to-day. The owners of the farms are only too anxious to get natives to reside there as tenants and yet to a great extent you can say there are no natives there at the present day.

Mr. G. van de Venter.] What I would like to know is to what native races this area

will be given or sold As we have mentioned in our report, there is only one native in the Vryheid division who is a land owner. The natives at present on our farms, even if the lands are given out as native locations, will not go there; they will remain on our farms as they are to-day. I have got a farm at Mahlabatini, bordering Dinizulu's, and the natives refuse to go and live on that farm. What native tribes are to go in that area, seeing there are no natives to-day willing to go there? We are not prepared to cut up lands for the Free State, the Transvaal and the Cape Colony, and we have only one native landowner in the division. There is a portion of this red part in Vryheid division inhabited by Europeans and the land is properly cultivated there; we do not know why this part is cut off.

Mr. B. G. Brecher.] On behalf of the meeting I ask about the compensation system. Everybody can understand that if an owner of a farm first wants to try and sell to a native and afterwards he has got to try and sell to the Government, there is arbitration, which will take months and years before the thing is settled. Now, what is the poor owner going to do in the meantime and will everything be paid out in the long run? I am afraid not; so that, as I said before, the owners of those farms do not care about selling because they will be the losers, and once they have sold they won't be able to purchase others; they will never be able to get the same quantity of ground as that which they have sold. Therefore the public are against giving up any ground in this district (hear, hear!). It is not only the hardship of the owners; they are losers, but in the end the district of Vrijheid will lose also—it will be a general loss.

Mr. R. ROUILLARD.] I wish to say that I have been in the district 7 or 8 years, partly farming and partly mining. I own a certain amount of land in the Vryheid and Ngotshe districts—3 farms in the latter district—about 18,000 acres, and for the last five years I have made a very earnest endeavour to make use of that land. The farms are "Magut," "Borgund" and "Bedrog." Of course, as usual, I am always working on an idea and scheme—I did not go on the farms there blindly—and I can say to-day I am farming successfully. Of course, the idea I have in my mind at the present moment is to try eventually to get most of that area under cultivation—the whole area. I think there is a very large percentage of ground which could be successfully farmed. It has taken me four years up to now to show that this farming in the low veld can be successfully carried out. My books show it is a great success.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have a certain amount of controlling interest in other farms. I have certain long leases on them as regards farming, as regards trading rights and so on, and it is my intention to go further, but I find this Natives' Land Act will probably put a stop to my schemes there.

By Mr. Evans.] I grew 700 acres, and I am increasing this area to about 1,000 acres of land under cultviation. My market is all from the natives at the present moment, because I cannot produce enough to supply this area. To go on with my schemes and ideas; these are to get that country inhabited. The argument that there is no white man living there does not hold good. We are in a new country and I can safely say there is nobody in this district who has done so much towards the general development of the two districts as I have. I am the biggest farmer as regards cultivation; I am the biggest cattle owner, and I am the biggest landowner, and also the biggest coalowner. I have fought against everything—tick fever regulations, the Roads Department, the Government—everyone, but the net result is satisfactory and I think, gentlemen, in ten years' time you won't recognise the Vryheid district. I think the possible development of this country are enormous. I have faith in it and I am working towards it, and I am certain of what I say. It will be the biggest coal centre in Natal, possibly in South Africa. We have got here tremendous possibilities ahead. It is not guess work; it is proved absolutely. As regards Ngotshe district, it is a different line of development in that it is agricultural. I contend and I can prove it, that the best portion of the Vryheid district as regards cultivation, as regards likely profit to be made out of the lands is in this area. You will ask me why is it so—it is absolutely erroneous to think there is too little rainfall. I can show you from my figures the rainfall is sufficient to grow mealies successfully every year without fertiliser, probably twice the crop you get in the Vryheid district. I do not agree that the rainfall is less dependable as you go east. My land is about 800 feet above sea level. I want to show, first of all, that by good farming this ground down here is more productive and is amenable to grow very fine crops every year. It is rich and therefore if you were to class this ground as being useless for white occupation I do not agree with it at all. At the present moment it does not contain the white men to remedy matters. I have made a road from "Magut" at my own expense going right through to Pongolo and I can travel all that district with a motor car. I have been through that country fairly often. I go there about once every six weeks, and all that country is lovely ground; you could grow anything there. The Chief of Police has said that he has never seen anything in his life like to what he has seen grown on the banks of the Pongolo River by natives. The natives are all wiped out by malaria—not a single kraal until you get to the Rooi Rand Ridge. The evidence I gave the other day was to this effect: that I contend that land which cannot be occupied by natives can be occupied by a white man, because the latter has better ideas of sanitation and fighting the mosquito, diet, and such other causes

which enable him to fight the forces of nature, whilst the native is absolutely hopeless. Further north I may tell this: that the mortality in that area is absolutely incredible. You have no conception—anybody who has not lived there could have no conception of the mortality amongst native children and women. It is so distressing that it pays me to-day to doctor any native in that area; it pays me to supply many pounds worth of quinine, epsom salts and jalap, also inoculations. I inoculated myself. They are so rotten with malaria that the mortality at the present day if you were to go round and get figures I will make a guess that the mortality is 60 per thousand, at least. It is one of the most unhealthy parts for natives you will find anywhere in the world. I say this area is unsuitable, because it will never be occupied by the natives. The Commission said "It is good enough for the native; there are no white men there." I say "No; you have put in an area which is absolutely unsuitable for native occupation."

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the Western portion is all right for natives, but when you get lower down below Nyalisa and "Wonderboom" I will make a great success of that area, and I will attract lots of settlers there, but you will never attract a native population there. I wish to impress upon you the unsuitability of this ground for native occupation and the great possibilities it holds for white settlers. I know that many gentlemen in this room will laugh at this statement, but it will be. The native is a pastoral inhabitant of the country and naturally his habitat is in the higher portions. You can bore for water there and I think it is possible to get it. I have two deep boreholes on my farm, but I have not been successful, for geological reasons, but you can make dams and bore in other places. I suppose the native could grow decent crops there, but not by himself. I contend my occupation of that country is an enormous benefit to the native population. If there were 40 others and myself we should change the aspect of the division. I would state this: that the land, taking a line from Nyalisa to the Ubombo, should be excluded from the native area, because there are very few natives who would take advantage of that area. I think all that area nearer towards Louwsburg is one you cannot cultivate and one which is very suitable for native occupation.

RECORD OF RAINFALL AT "MAGUT."

For six months ending 31st December, 1913	10·85	inches
For next six months, 1914	12·81	„
	14·26	„
„ „ „ „ 1915	17·11	„
	10·40	„
„ „ „ „ 1916	6·97	„
	6·66	„

and from January to present date (1917) about 10 inches.

In giving particulars as to occupation, etc., the following general remarks were made:

Mr. G. Van de Venter.] The land between the Mkuzi and Pongolo is good ground. Here and there you get dry farms but, speaking generally, there is sufficient water.

Mr. J. H. STEENKAMP.] In the old days this part was a shooting ground. With the exception of a small strip along the Pongolo all the land in that area was fully occupied by natives. There is a strip of land—say two to three miles along the Pongolo which is not suitable for native occupation. All the rest is absolutely suitable for Kafirs.

Mr. P. BEUKES.] The water from the Pongolo could be used to supply the dry part with water.

Mr. A. L. PRETORIUS.] As regards the Ngomi area, this country has been occupied by whites. I have lived there for 25 years and all my children were born there. I will not leave it. It is unfair of the Government to take that land, as it is good for whites. It is excellent ground for wattles; it is not quite so good for agriculture, but with fertiliser it is very good. I have been offered £12 a morgen for my farm of 1,160 morgen, on which there are 400 to 500 acres of black wattles. There is a good deal of high veld in this area.

Mr. P. DUMINY.] As regards the country bordering on Mahlabatini division, there is thorn veld, also high lands. My farm "Welverdiend" in the low veld is good for agriculture; anything can be sown there. I would not exchange it for a farm in the Cape Colony. I do not live there; my children are not old enough yet. At the present time there is no white man living there, but a man has asked me if he can live there. There are 10 native kraals there. They are the kind of natives who won't work and they pay me £2 per hut per year. There is no fever there. There is a strip of gold bearing country there—the "Denny Dalton."

Mr. J. J. FERREIRA.] I should say £2 a morgen is about the average value of land towards the Black Umfolozi. I paid £1 a morgen about five years ago for my farm "Grootgeluk," which I have improved considerably since acquisition; to-day I could get £5 a morgen for it. Unimproved land in that locality I should consider is to-day worth about £1 10s. a morgen. There are not many Kafirs living there. They will not work because they can go into reserves in Zululand.

Mr. B. G. Brecher reads paragraph 5 of the local Committee's report, having special reference to Nqutu division (see copy attached). Now, as you see, gentlemen, there is the district of Vryheid and there is Utrecht district. This reserve comes right in and it ought to be a white settlement instead of a native reserve. I believe the principle is wrong that natives should live in tongues of land like that. Let them be in one block and the whites in another. I understand there are very many thousands of acres going to waste there.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, those people ought to be on one side. I am talking about the principle; it is quite wrong to have natives in between white people. That is our opinion, and if our land is being expropriated, why cannot that (Nqutu division) be taken, especially when one considers the huge tracts left in Zululand? I think there is ample room for all the natives in Zululand. I do not think it could be expected for the division of Vryheid to give up land for, say, Pondos or the Free State or any other part. Why should we give up land when there is ample room in Zululand? The natives have been living in Zululand all their lives and to-day we hear it is very unhealthy.

Report of Meeting held with Natives immediately after that of the Europeans.

Chief MNYAIZA.] We have heard the explanations you have afforded us and you have been good enough to indicate the recommended area, but in this same area are different chiefs and I think it would be as well if the others had been represented, seeing it concerns them. (It is arranged that the other chiefs concerned can meet the Committee at Idhlebe, in Mahlabatini division, later).

Chief BIKELABANI.] I support what the last speaker said. He, however, has now been answered by our magistrate and I am satisfied. This is the third occasion on which Commissions have taken evidence in regard to this matter. We would like to have native areas in localities where we have lived all our lives. We have been born in the high veld and it is exactly the same with us as a horse born there—it cannot live in the thorns. This applies equally to human beings.

Chief uHALI.] I am not acquainted with any of this area; none of my tribe live on it. We have been born in the high veld and have never lived in the thorn country. I cannot say as to the suitability or otherwise of the recommended area because I have always lived on my present site.

WILLIAM WASHINGTON NDHLOVU (a Kolwa).] I would like to give my evidence with regard to Vryheid East (a sub-division of "Zwartkoppie," adjoining Township of Vryheid). The natives own nearly all the plots there. I think it would be a great hardship to the natives who have bought this land dearly and have given beneficiat occupation—they have built houses as well as a church and they have planted trees on their various plots—if that area should be declared a European area. I cannot say whether that has been marked as a European or a native area. There are only a few Europeans who have bought erven there; the majority are owned by natives. There are only two or three Europeans there. We would very much like to have a commonage where we can always keep a bit of stock. Only last year we had to make arrangements with the agent of the owner to get grazing rights on "Zwartkoppie," for which we are paying a high price—£25 a year. We have our own dip there. With regard to the recommended area; a little of it is in the high veld, a great portion middle veld and the remainder in the low veld. There is more thorn country than there is high veld and the water is very limited. The rainfall is not as it is in the high veld. I know some of that area, but I cannot say I know every inch of it. Well, I think it would not be true to say that this area recommended is not occupied by natives, but some of it is not occupied, more especially in the thick thorns. (Mr. Colenbrander says there is not a single farm which is not occupied by natives). I mean it is not thickly populated as on the high veld. That being the case, the whole trouble will be rainfall and the fever during the summer months.

By Mr. Chapman.] Every year in the thorns the death rate is always very high, more especially after three or four years. This year it is very severe in the thorns on account of fever. There is, of course, more fever in the thorns than in the middle veld. I think it is unfair that we should have this recommended area, seeing that some of it will not be so thickly populated as the farms on the high veld. We have a growing population and I think it would have been more advantageous if the strip to be set apart had been in the high veld. It is very well known that our people do not understand sanitation and the death rate is always high, whereas with Europeans who understand sanitation the death rate is very small indeed. I would recommend the high veld in the Vryheid division, towards the Mpemvana. I would also recommend that Government should allow syndicates of even 30 to buy land; a syndicate of 5 would only buy a very small portion of ground, whereas a syndicate of 30 could do more.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which dispersed shortly after 1 p.m.

COPY.

Vryheid, Natal,
March 19th, 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Gentlemen,—Your Committee, consisting of Messrs. F. W. van Reenen, G. Bridson and myself, having been elected as such on Wednesday, the 14th instant, to enquire into the recommendations of the Natives' Land Commission and to report as to their findings, herewith beg to state:

1. That your Committee having seen the report of the Committee appointed by the Agricultural Society on the above subject concurs with what has been expressed in said report.

2. Your Committee can understand that the Commission appointed as a "Natives Land Commission" had to do their best in appropriating as much land as possible for the native reserve and that it altogether lost sight of the fact that in appropriating land for natives which belongs to Europeans and with which the Europeans are satisfied that such action is a serious loss and a hardship imposed on such Europeans whose land is disappropriated for the use and benefit of such native reserve.

3. Your Committee is of the same opinion as that held by the Committee of the Vryheid Agricultural Society as to the setting aside of farms in this district are concerned. We cannot agree to any disappropriation for the use of natives of any farms in this district. It will spell ruination to many an owner. It will certainly be mentioned that Government will remunerate such owner. May we ask how much? Would the Government have the farms valued at the present face value of such farms? And if any owner is dissatisfied with the remuneration offered, will he be bound to accept it? This action would be very unfair and spell ruination to many an owner. Taken on the whole the present face value of the farm cannot be taken as the value of the farm, as we are aware land is rising in price. An owner receiving £1 or £2 per morgen or perhaps a little more will not be able to purchase the same amount of land for the price received; he already having established himself will have to start afresh also and will be a heavy loser in the end by the transaction, which will spell ruination to many a one.

4. We in the district of Vryheid that have been here at the time of the new republic have experienced it. Our land received from Dinizulu was inspected to the east of Babanango to the sea. A deputation of the new republic agreed with the Governor of Natal that we would give up the land situated in the south east for land south of the Pongolo River (the portion known as Proviso B. retained by the British Government) between Pongolo and the Umkuzi Rivers to the Lebombo. In the first place all the owners of land in the south did not get land in the north and others were compensated in cash and they could not purchase a farm elsewhere for the small compensation they received for their farms, consequently the owners of the farms were the losers.

5. Your Committee is of opinion that the principle is wrong that a native reserve should be in between coming in with a point between land occupied by Europeans as is the case with the Nqutu reserve, which lies in between the Vryheid and Utrecht district. Geographically speaking, the Nqutu district should form portion of the district of Vryheid, and also we have experienced the same as set forth in Appendix VIII of the report of the Committee, in the last clause of folio 9, where it says: "Bitter complaints were made to me by farmers around, some of whom were not of the extremist unreasonable type so very prevalent. They complained that these natives owned farms with a front door upon European owned sheep farms, and a back exit on Kaffirdom formed an excellent and convenient means whereby to annex valuable stock with little chance of detection.

Europeans living on the borders of the Vryheid-Nqutu districts have the same bitter complaints. Annexed sheep have been traced to go over the Vryheid district's borders into the Nqutu district and once over the border all traces are lost. We also know that the natives living in the Nqutu district own sheep and cattle and consequently annexed sheep can be ear-marked, shorn, etc., with little or no chance of detection.

To prevent any further annexing as much as possible and the fact that the Nqutu district geographically belongs to the district of Vryheid, we trust that your Commitee have done the right thing in the recommendation to exchange same, also recommending that no land shall be cut off from the district, which would mean a direct loss to present occupiers as well as to the prosperity of the district of Vryheid.

(Signed) B. G. BRECHER,
Representing the burgers of district Vryheid.

COPY.

"Springfield," Babanango,
20th March, 1917.

To the Natives' Land Committee,
Vryheid.

Gentlemen,—Re Native Land Act, as one whom it very much concerns I wish to make my protest against the said Act. I understand the farm on which I reside is one of a

block in this division which is intended to hand over to the natives. I have resided 31 years on this farm and spent thousands of pounds in improvements, etc.; brought up a family of eight to manhood and womanhood. I think it is monstrous to place so drastic an Act in the hands of Government who could thereby with the stroke of a pen transfer my property to the natives, casting myself and family adrift.

I have 5 sons and 3 sons-in-law, all without land. My opinion is that these 8 persons with their families are of greater assistance to the Government to settle on land than 1,000 natives. Would the Committee inform me what is the intention of Government to do with families if the Act should pass (which I very much doubt) are they to go to other countries to obtain land to reside?

I may state for the information of the Committee that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land in Zululand unoccupied. Take from Enkonjeni to Hlopekulu, and then from Nongoma right down to Kosi Bay—you will find some of the richest arable land in South Africa, rich virgin, open country where you may put the plough in and plough miles at a stretch.

I will give you one instance to show the failure of trying to settle natives on land. Take for instance Adam Kok's tribe, who were brought from near Kimberley to Noman'slands on the borders of Natal, now called Griqualand East—one of the most fertile districts in South Africa. This large tract of country was cut up into small farms which were handed over to Griqua families. What do we to-day find? That all these Griquas or people have disposed of their land and that I believe there are not half a dozen who still retain their title deeds. The natives are a migratory race and will not settle for long in one place. In short, my opinion is the whole native question can be solved in two words, viz. *Stop Polygamy.* When this is done the natives will settle down quietly and work to maintain their own families and not as at present the whole of the burden of supporting their families are on the women.

Having been forty years in the country I could say a lot more, but will not take up your valuable time.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) R. W. CHANDLER.

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Weenen, Natal, on March 27th, 1917, during the forenoon.

Mr. T. J. BARRON.] I am the owner of the farm "Ravine," adjoining the Tugela Estates. I believe that has been put into the Kafir area. I have a house on that farm. There is about 300 acres that could be put under water. I am building a dip. I intend taking out water from a stream in the hill; it runs about 6 or 7 inches of water day and night. I am also speaking on behalf of my mother-in-law as regards her farm "Vale of Hope" on the Sunday's River. The old man's grave is there and that land had been occupied; there is a lot of good land there. I should not like you to put my place in the Kafir area.

By Mr. Chapman.] I intend living on it. At the present time I do not; I could not go on before I have a house on it. The farm is about 1,000 acres. I can put 300 acres, if not more, under water, it is all flat.

By Mr. Evans.] About 7 inches of water right through. There is more in summer time,; taking the average, summer and winter, there is 7 inches. The farm has been occupied by me for a short ime. My home is in Weenen and I have just leased my property here. We bought the farm from Mr. Kershaw after the Boer War.

By Mr. Chapman.] There are a few natives; they find labour and pay no rent. I first bought the farm with the idea of running cattle. I had a few—about 350 head—which I lost with tick fever; I saved ten out of them. That was before we knew anything about dips.

By Mr. Evans.] There are about 14 kraal heads on the farm. I get no rent at all from them. A lot have just come on about two years ago.

Mr. O. ROTTCHER.] I represent the Muden Farmers' Association and I speak on behalf of them. We tried to get the areas recommended by this Native Commission and we never did until this morning, when I have seen the areas recommended. We are surprised, because we have never heard natives grumble that they have not enough land to live on. Why then put more land aside for the natives? If they could exchange—say now the Mpofana irrigation works; the natives grumbled then when they took the furrow. They said "They are only doing it to get money from us." I said "No; they see you get famine now and again and it is to help you get crops." They went away on the hills; of course they went back to the land when the drought came. I grew up amongst the natives and I understand irrigation; I talk of what I have experienced. It would be different if we knew and saw that it was really necessary that the natives should get more

lands; that is what we cannot understand. We should encourage them to work and earn their living, but we have thousands and thousands of loafers and grown-up youngsters for thirty and forty years they have never done any work. Up to now there is nothing in my area; we thought there were some farms which had been put in that area, and I thought of leaving the other matter to the Weenen people.

By Mr. Evans.] No, I do not want any portion to come into native area; I have had enough of it.

By Mr. Chapman.] I happen to know the first farm near Weenen, which I surveyed. I have had over 30 years' experience of natives having land under water; they spoil it unless they are under European supervision. "Baviaan's Krantz" would go under water—nearly all of it. It is a dry farm now, but they could take the same intake as the old weir and bring a lot of ground under water. On behalf of the Corporation of Weenen I surveyed Smith's farm, as a practical farmer.

Mr. L. C. KINSMAN.] I am representing the few residents of Umhlumba. We are only a few white people up there, but of long standing. I mean I have been there 48 years. We have made our homes there and I think this plot of the Government to take land to give to natives is just the thin edge of the wedge to damn Natal—to dump it with all the scoundrels of the Union. I do not think for a moment that it is really meant for Kafirs who have not land to go on, but all the bad Kafirs from Natal, the Cape, Free State, Transvaal and Swaziland will be brought down. I think the Government have probably not considered the cost of this moving of natives. They must know that Kafirs will not go to a place where they do not want to, unless there is trouble. They will have to be forced, and what does that mean? A rebellion amongst these niggers. What proposition has the Government made for these niggers to do; are they to live on these lands free of rent and everything else? What about those who do not purchase it and want to live on it? If the Government took 150 Kafirs off my farm, what will the Government do with them? At the present time no native may be taken on farms to pay rent; quite right, too. I consider if the Government are to purchase these lands for Kafirs, are they going to live on these farms now as they did in the location? There are hundreds and hundreds of young Kafirs doing nothing but chasing girls and drinking beer. They are a danger to the community. The Government should consider people who made homes here. We are living here at "Elsdale"; we cannot alter the location, but we do not want any more of it.

Mr. R. M. K. CHADWICK.] I object to the whole of this areas as far as Weenen County is concerned—the whole of this area as marked pink now—on the following grounds: Most of these farms here were occupied by Europeans. I have been here 43 years and will just show you farms which were occupied—Mr. Smith's was occupied by a Dutchman called Van der Berg; "Pretoria" was occupied when I came; "Good Hope" was occupied for a short time, also "Baviaan's Krantz," "Doorn Vlakte" and "Cecilia." Now these new farms here were laid off by the Government when they started laying off Crown lands, but the other farms were most of them owned by Europeans in Weenen County and in permanent occupation. Now these farms up to the present time are used by land owners in Weenen County and some from other parts and are absolutely necessary for the carrying on of the farmer's occupation; they are absolutely necessary for labour purposes, and as soon as tick fever is over, all these farms will be used for stock. People will send their stock down in winter. These are absolutely necessary for labour; they all supply labour to up-country high veld farmers. They have been stopped from bringing their cattle down on account of the fever, but you will find these farms full of cattle again. Now, as to my own farm "Hampton Green"; I used this farm for labour for many years. Those who worked paid no rent; those who did not work had to pay. I let this farm the last three years to a man who is using it entirely for labour; he had a block here and made money and has a farm in Greytown; he draws his labour from this farm. If you do not get these farms here they have to depend entirely on volunteer labour, which is very uncertain—to-day you might have a lot, next month not one for love or money; consequently the farmers require these farms and the whole of this belt of lands here is absolutely necessary for the people who draw their labour to carry on their work in the up-country districts. These farms were all full of cattle before rinderpest; they have been abandoned now because they cannot bring their cattle down.

By Mr. Chapman.] Undoubtedly they will bring cattle down again; it is going to be a ranching country. The whole of these farms will be filled with cattle from up-country; several owners have told me themselves. Now, "Darkest Africa" Haynes had; he had 400 or more transport oxen there. He gave up this farm and bought a farm near Boston and the Government allowed him to take the instalments he had paid on "Darkest Africa" and go towards the Boston farm, so he gave it up. My farm is not fenced, barring one corner; I have had to pay for it. A dip is being built on "Darkest Africa" by the Government.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, Simmons has a dip and my cattle up to the present dip in Mr. Simmons' dip. If this farm is to be taken away, what is the use of it? If you have natives only here you won't have a hold on them. This land is being beneficially used to-day by Europeans.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, these farms were more occupied in older days than they are now, but they can be occupied again as they were years ago. The whole of these farms were occupied in the olden Dutch days and there is no reason why they should not be occupied again to-day by Europeans.

By Mr. Chapman.] The land across the Bushman's River I have travelled over and know it all and I think this land could be occupied by Europeans if the owners would let them have it at a reasonable rate. Hitherto they have not been occupied by Europeans because we have got more rents from natives than we could get from whites.

By Mr. Evans.] About £2 is the average rent paid; it is the most I have charged on my farm. There are about 40 huts on my farm, but I believe Mr. Harris turned a lot of them off when I had a block in Weenen and used it entirely for labour. If you take this away from Europeans it will become a sort of location; the fellows will stay there and practically defy you. I offered to lease 500 acres of "Onverwacht" (?), but they would not let me have it on the principle that native rents paid better.

By Mr. Chapman.] As far as I know, there is only one dip in that area—on Mr. Simmons' farm.

Mr. J. C. K. CHADWICK.] I have been asked by Mr. George Smith to give evidence on his behalf. I wish to point out, with regard to "Baviaans Krantz" that there is a white man living there with a family. He has been there four years. There are 100 acres actually under water, growing lucerne. Mr. Smith has used that farm ever since he has had it—some 27 years. He used to send his cattle down there and his horses; the latter come down every year. There is a dip on the farm, and as Mr. Rottcher mentioned on the opposite side of the river there are certainly some 200 to 300 acres of good lands which could be put under water.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, Mr. Smith endeavoured to sell a portion some time ago—the dry portion. I do not know that he got an offer. It is hard to say the value—lucerne lands here in Weenen are valued at £60 an acre. Mr. Smith wanted 25s. an acre for the dry portion.

By Mr. Evans.] There are about 30 kraals on this farm. He draws rent and labour from this farm. He always made a policy of never taking on a kraal which did not supply labour. The rents are, I think, the lowest in this locality—£2 a hut. Rents go up as high as £4 a hut in this division. No, Mr. Smith protests very strongly against this farm going into a native area. It is almost all fenced. He has always used it to advantage. The point is this, that supposing you take in this farm, what about the Government policy of segregation? The area is right alongside the town lands of Weenen. The area is far too near the township. Mr. Smith has used the farm beneficially ever since he had it. The man there pays rent for the water lands and he gets grazing over the north side of the river. I think he is making a decent living there. I could not say what rent he is paying.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I am agent for "Vernier" and "Doorn Vlakte"; they are purely and simply labour farms.

By Mr. Evans.] Mr. Smith charges £2 a hut for an ordinary hut and £1 for a batchelor's hut.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there are a good many natives on "Kafir Kraal." A tank is being built there now. I just wish to object very strongly against the inclusion of "Baviaan's Krantz" in the native area.

Mr. J. J. VAN ROOYEN, Senr.] I quite agree with what Mr. Chadwick, Senr., has said. I represent the Middlerest Farmers' Association and we consider the natives are better off when a white man owns the land than when they own it themselves, because in times of drought, when they have no food, they can always get something from their master, but in locations Government has to provide for them. My opinion is that they are better off when a European owns the land. These lands are worth a lot to Europeans. These thorn farms are used for labour and winter grazing. The Van Rooyens there are my relatives.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not know whether they charge rent; they get labour from there. Some people charge rent because they have to pay non-occupation tax. Some of these farms—not all—are fit for Europeans. Some are very dry. Europeans might get water by drilling and live there, as I saw in the Cape Colony.

By Mr. Evans.] Oh, yes, in the old days a lot of Europeans used to live in these thorn farms, but they have gone. Mr. Blaker had a man on "Pretoria" in the old days. I get my labour from a thorn farm. I do not charge any rent at all. My son has the right and he charges rent from some of the natives. I pay my natives 7s. a month for big boys when they work six months and the smaller boys and girls 5s. a month, and the kraal has to come and help when I want them. I dip their cattle now at my place—600 head of cattle are being dipped every five days.

Mr. E. NORTHERN.] We have been collecting rents for the farm "Erskine," which is about 4,000 acres in extent. I know there are a good number of huts on it. There has been a little Kafir store there for some years, kept by a man called Oldenburg. I do not think he is there now; the store is closed.

By Mr. Evans.] I do not know how many huts there are. The rent is £2 per hut and

in some instances they charge £1 extra if they have a plough. I think the trouble with these farms is that there is no water on many of them. They are all very good cattle farms if we could only get rid of the tick fever.

By Mr. Chapman.] In regard to the proposed area: they are nearly all dry except those bordering on the river. There is no white occupation worth speaking of and not likely to be unless the Government send down boring machines. The owners only use the farms for labour, but if they wished to improve their farms they could do so. There has been no white man living on those farms during the 35 years I have been here. I think these farms have gone back from the white occupation all over; there was occupation, but the farms have been abandoned on account of the water scarcity question. I do not think there has been any attempt at boring in that area. I have no doubt you would get water by boring. Natives dig down in the dry spruits and get water—sufficient for domestic purposes. They have to send their cattle 14 and 15 miles to get water in a dry season. The land is good and with good rains they get splendid crops.

Mr. R. M. K. Chadwick.] About ten years ago some of those farms adjoining "Darkest Africa" did have springs, but all that district round there used to have to go through "Hampton Green" down to the Bushman's River to get water for their cattle.

Mr. E. Northern.] Now that farms are fenced it is a very difficult thing to get cattle to the rivers. It is wasting money to put up a dip in that area unless there is a borehole. None of the Europeans have made effort to find water by boring. The owners are quite satisfied with the labour and the rents.

Mr. L. C. Kinsman.] I was going to explain that these farms really belong to owners who are really occupying their farms on the strength of the labour on these farms they draw labour from. I fail to see how they will work their farms beneficially if these thorn farms are taken away.

Mr. O. Rottcher.] The farm "Erskine" can be brought under water. It is a very nice farm; any European can live there. I saw an Indian put a borehole on a farm where no one expected water to be found and he has got sufficient water for his purposes. Douglas made his money on "Erskine" there is never a failure of crops there from drought, only from locusts. No one lives there now, only the Arabs at the store.

Mr. J. C. HEARD.] I occupy "Baviaans' Krantz," which I lease from Mr. Smith. I have 125 acres under water and about 40 acres of lucerne; the workable land is 125 acres. I lease 225 acres. Lucerne does very well; it beats Weenen. It is a deeper soil there altogether. I am quite satisfied I can do well there.

By Mr. Evans.] I have another 5½ years to run. Mr. Smith wanted to sell the eastern portion.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am pumping the water out.

By Mr. Evans.] I think the part he wanted to sell is better really. The grazing adjoins the arable land. I should say on the whole farm at a reasonable expenditure close on 600 acres of excellent land could be put under water. I do not think there is any better land in Natal. Quite a number of people have been after it. I still have the option now to purchase it. The piece was close on 4,000 acres; the farm is 6,600 acres. I pay £52 10s. for my piece. There are really two leases. I have a free grazing right for a certain number of cattle; for the rest I pay 1s. a head. I should say there are close on 100 huts on the farm. I believe they pay rent. I think the natives have a pretty good time of it.

Report of Meeting with Natives. Mr. F. A. Freeman acting as Interpreter.

After the usual introductory address by Mr. Chapman the assembly asked for an adjournment to talk the matter over amongst themselves. This was agreed to.

Chief NGOMAYO refers to a purely administrative matter, viz. the recognition of Muzicitwayo as heir to the late Chief Silwane.

LUGUGU, Chief Headman of Chief NQAMUZANA.] The chiefs here before you feel that Government is taking an extraordinary action in that it is dividing the district for a certain portion of the tribes and leaving others outside. We recognise that Government is acting for the welfare of the black race in that they are trying to abolish the farm system, which is a hardship to us, but the small area which Government proposed tacking on to-day will not be sufficient for the black community. We would suggest that the boundary be the Drakensburg. To-day we natives complain that there are many of us who are living on hills without land to plough. Those natives are mostly natives who have been turned off the farms by the landlords, and if, as is suggested by Government to-day that an area be defined for the natives, it will mean this: that from those areas which are not included in the native area natives will be turned off and thereby cause an influx into the recommended area. That will mean that natives who would leave those parts outside the native area would come to the latter and find no lands whatever, as at present there are many natives living on hills without lands for cultivation. Government would be placing a burden on the native races, as we recognise the areas pointed out to us to-day is nothing

but hills. We are nowadays accustomed to ploughing with cattle and in that vicinity it would not be possible. I speak the words of the other chiefs in saying this—that so far as they are concerned Government has not defined any area within the vicinity of their kraals. They therefore respectfully beg that an area also be defined in that locality. We say this: that the boundary as is defined to-day is a zigzag boundary made for the purpose of keeping out the lands that are easily ploughed and giving us the hills. Then having those lands which are fit for nobody else we would sooner it remain as it is to-day. We at the same time appreciate this action the Government is taking in that we know it is doing its best to help us—the black race, but we have this grievance which we feel would trouble us, viz. that we see, according to the boundary defined to-day, that the nice pieces of land are being reserved for the Europeans, thereby making a zigzag boundary. We say this to the Government: "Do not get tired in what you are doing, and we hope that with your perseverance in the future you will acquire suitable places for us." We thank Government heartily for the easy times and justice we receive, but the grievance we have to-day is the trouble that we have to undergo through farms. We have not complained against Government or its works. If it were that there were no farms satisfaction would fill our hearts. In conclusion, we thank Government for taking the action they have done and enjoin them not to be disappointed but to persevere, and we will live in hopes of that perseverance.

Chief NOCAGA.] Lugugu has left little unsaid. He has omitted to say that the meeting referred to the present situation of our King and the British—as to whether he was now living in a peaceful state or otherwise. With regard to the lands said to be put aside for the native race, we would like to ask if Government will take into consideration the idea of setting apart those lands from Zululand to the Drakensburg, continuing south to the coast. We do not desire that the European races should be separated from us. We are quite willing that the Government should place them here and there, as they are to-day. If Government adopt that plan they should define boundaries for the respective chiefs and different tribes as is done in Zululand. In the event of a European wishing to dispose of his farm the natives thereon might be given the option of congregating and purchasing it and thus make it their own. This I liken unto a dream—probably the result of this Committee's work will be that our native boys who are in employ on farms will receive more thrashings than they deserve; the Europeans will know that they are in hopes of getting farms and will see that they get more chastisement.

MBOGOTWA, Representing Chief MANGOTOBANA.] We thank the Government for the action they are taking to-day. We are quite satisfied to remain as we are, viz. that if we are living on European farms it is satisfactory; if Europeans buy farms that is satisfactory, but we do not think it right that we should be carted away from any locality and put in another. Natives in the area as defined to-day are many and if other natives are sent there it will mean a great influx. Therefore, if natives are turned away from farms in other localities and they naturally come to this area there will be no ground for them. It is quite right if we remain as we are and that those natives who are in a position to buy farms be allowed to do so. We find fault very much with the Government in that our tribes are scattered; it should not be—our tribes should be in one locality with definite boundaries, not distributed and intermixed.

Chief MGWAQO.] We thank Government heartily for the action that it has taken to-day. We see that the Government is weeping for us. Farms, there is no doubt, trouble us. We desire that the Government teach the landlords to treat us properly. If Government wishes to do anything, let it define the boundaries for the respective chiefs and let it remain as it is to-day—intermixed with the European farms. With regard to buying farms, I do not think it would be satisfactory, in that a native will buy a farm and it will immediately fall down, *i.e.* it will be taken away from him. I have not known yet of a native buying a farm and that farm remaining his property. I can refer to the time of my father, when the farm of Geike's(?) was purchased from the Government by him and the others. Then bags of gold were taken on horses to pay for it and that farm is not ours. To-day we find it very hard to have to pay £2 on a hut—we have nothing. We were in hopes that Government might abolish the farms. Let them remain the owners, but allow us to remain there free and gratis. We are not peacefully situated, in that we are like a dog which has to scramble for food when it is thrown away. We thank the Government and ask that we be allowed to remain as we are, because if we are shifted to this recommended area there will be so many natives there that they will eventually stab one another. Even to-day we are fighting and stab one another owing to the fact that our tribes are intermixed, even though we are left on European farms. We ask that Government abolish the farms and thereby remove the trouble that is caused to us by our landlords. We ask that we may be treated in the proper manner—not as dogs. We are not even treated as a pointer is, we are treated as common dogs. Even here an official in preference to throwing meat to us would throw it to his dog. We thank Government for the action it has taken and we will live in hope that something will result therefrom.

Mr. Evans addressed the assembly, explaining all the points that had been raised by speakers, and the meeting terminated at about 1.30 p.m.

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Krantzkop, Natal, during forenoon of 29th March, 1917.

Mr. G. T. VAN ROOYEN.] We have had three meetings of the Farmers' Association and also had our member of Parliament here. As far as the Europeans are concerned we are very much opposed to any land at present owned by Europeans being taken for native areas. Some of those farms are fit for European occupation and others are not, and as we look upon it if those farms should be included in the native area it is not likely that natives would settle there on account of the roughness of the country. On the other hand, if included in the European area we use them every year for winter grazing, and I think in time to come in three or four years' time, when our cattle have increased—they will be fully stocked. Even last year there was difficulty in getting grazing on those farms. As far as I understand from the members of the Association, I think they are unanimous that these farms should be included in the European area, to do away with the native squatting, which has been a great evil in this district and kept out European occupation. Those farms belonging to the Colonisation Company are farmed practically just for native rents and if that was done away with they would come in the market at once and be bought by Europeans.

By Mr. Chapman.] They are suitable for Europeans. They are rough, but Europeans live there. Europeans are occupying the farm "Thorndale" now. There are some—like "Tugela Rand"—which are not fit for European occupation.

By Mr. Evans.] Portions of "Kaal Hoek" and "Roode Wal" I would say are fit for European occupation; the owners are the Colonisation Company, but the other farms which are not fit for European occupation are fully stocked in winter and in time to come there won't be enough thorn farms for the winter.

By Mr. Chapman.] I think the Colonization Company charge £2 or £3 a hut, so it really pays them better to stock them with natives than to sell. "Kaal Hoek" would be worth about 15s. an acre, but "Roode Wal" a little bit more. No, there has been no difficulty in getting our cattle down there in the winter. There are dips on the farms—on two of them. You must dip cattle while they are there. On most of the thorn farms there are dips already. It is a pity to include farms which are fit for European occupation—like "Loots Hoek," "Krantz Kloof" and portion of "Witte Krantz"; the last is a very good farm. "Loots Hoek' is occupied by two Europeans—two Perrys; the other portion belongs to Martens and adjoins his own farm. We do get some labour from these farms, but most of the boys pay rent and go away—to Johannesburg. On "Krantz Kloof" they pay £5 a hut and on the others from £1 10s. to £2 and £2 10s. We are only beginning with cattle now. We had a clean sweep from East Coast fever. The European farms and thorn farms are clean now. In time to come "Tugela Rand" and all the other farms will be used for cattle. The mandate from the Association was that we were to oppose any farms being included in this area. We were told to inform the Committee that the whole of this location is very sparsely populated and that was where the natives should buy land. There is a certain amount of fever down there by the river; in 1906 they had fever, but not since.

By Mr. Evans.] There is a lot of arable land in the location, near the Tugela.

Mr. F. E. VAN ROOYEN.] The chief usually bags all the best ground and won't let other natives go on to it.

Mr. G. T. van Rooyen.] I think natives would buy land in the location.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have never heard of natives wanting to buy land in this division. The only one I know of that has bought is the Chief Nyoniyezwe; he offered it to me for the balance still unpaid on it. He paid too much for it, I think, but he got very liberal terms. The farm is in the market to-day.

By Mr. Evans.] Regarding the three farms in Umvoti Division, near Mr. Allard: Mrs. Hansmeyer's farm is an exceptionally good one for winter grazing. I could not say if there is any European occupation on those farms. I do not know "Mount Allard," but the other two are thorn farms, and there are dipping tanks on all. "Prospect" is an exceptionally good thorn farm.

By Mr. Chapman.] Cattle are only in the infancy now, but when we get fully stocked every one of those farms will be fully occupied. Before tick fever the smallest man had 200 head of cattle. Our summer grazing is very good indeed. That is why these farms are so necessary to us. I grow food for winter, but the thorn farms are our standby.

By Mr. Evans.] There are farms which are quite suitable for European occupation; others are not suitable, but you will find the native on some. We use them right through the winter. It would be futile to offer them to a native; they would not buy. If it becomes a native area it is lost to us. These farms must come in the market some time or another and a white man cannot buy them—they must be offered to natives. The suggestion from the Farmers' Association was—and also from Sir George Leuchars—that a portion of the native location should be allocated for natives to buy farms if they

wanted to. There is some very suitable ground in the location, in fact there are many Europeans who would gladly settle there close to the Tugela.

By Mr. Chapman.] There are no unoccupied farms (European) here in the high veld. It is the only area at all suitable for the purpose of winter grazing. In summer time it is very little used. There is very little land for cultivation and in winter time we cannot do without them. Most of those farms would be of little use for native occupation. No, there are no lands that we recommend for inclusion in the native area. Most farmers think that the native develops and comes more under civilization by living on European farms as a servant. There is a demand all over for natives to live on farms as native labourers and it has always been our experience that the native who lives on these farms is much better than the native who lives in locations; it improves him generally to live as a labourer. At the same time, we are quite in favour of segregation —that natives should not lease or buy land amongst Europeans.

Mr. F. E. van Rooyen.] I have not much to add to Mr. Van Rooyen's evidence, with which I agree. I think the location is quite large enough for the natives to occupy in this district without taking these farms as native area. The farm "Thorndale" in the area belongs to me. I bought it at just a little over £1 an acre. It is only two years since I started to re-stock and I am already over-stocked on my high veld farm. There is plenty of water for stock on these farms but not for irrigation. The streams do not dry up—only in parts.

By Mr. Chapman.] The natives are still there. One kraal I gave notice to remove and one gave notice himself when I bought it. There are about 30 kraals on the farm, but they are all on one side. One native claimed that the land was his late father's property, so I moved him. They pay me rent.

Mr. J. P. NEL.] I agree entirely with what Mr. Van Rooyen has said. I own about 2,000 acres in the recommended area.

By Mr. Evans.] There is no arable land on the 2,000 acres I own. I have plenty of water on the two places in winter. I have natives on it. I think I have about 10 or 12 kraals on this land.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, there would not be room for many more, because those natives were on it when I bought it. There would not be enough arable land for more, not even if the bush was cleared. It is very stony ground, but very good for cattle. It is blue grass there.

By Mr. Evans.] What I have said of my land applies to that on the eastern side marked pink. I get rent from these natives. I shall have to sell out if they take my thorn farms. I have about 3,000 acres on the top and a lot of wattles. I have recently bought a farm for grazing on top; this is included in the 3,000 acres. I use a lot of oxen for transport. I have sown a lot of paspalum on "Elands Kop," where I graze my oxen in winter.

Mr. F. H. NUSS.] I hold a sub-division of "Rugged Run" which is in the recommended area. I hold "Woodlands" and "Waiting." There is about 150 acres of high veld on the top. "Rugged Run" has been sub-divided and is held by different people. "Woodlands" is practically all on the top.

By Mr. Evans.] "Waiting" and "Woodlands" are my property, originally bought by my late father from the Crown. I use these farms for mixed farming—wattles and cattle. On my hill farm I have about 8 or 9 kraals.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have between three and four hundred acres of wattles on my land. I have wattles on all these lots of mine. I have buildings, but I do not really occupy them for myself. I live on A. of "Sutherlands."

By Mr. Evans.] I have about 900 acres outside the native area. I have 1,700 acres altogether. Practically the whole of "Rugged Elm" is under wattles.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I could still plough on all these lots. I have my best wattles on "Woodlands" and "Rugged Run." I am not planting any more wattles; I shall use the land for grazing. I wish these farms excluded, certainly. With regard to "Buffels Hoek," there are very few wattles on it. Most of it is really in the thorns, but there is some high veld. The mission station has a portion—about 600 acres. It is owned by Mr. E. J. van Rooyen and the mission station. Mr. Van Rooyen is really on sub-division C. of Sutherlands," but he uses it as one farm, his grazing is on "Buffels Hoek."

Meeting with Natives at Krantzkop, immediately after Meeting with Europeans.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address and the boundaries of the recommended area were carefully explained to the assembly.

Chief MTAMO.] If the Government wishes us to purchase these farms I must say that we are unable to do so. The Government should take these farms from the Europeans and give them to us. We came up here thinking that we would be met with great joy; that

the Government would give these farms back to us, as they belonged to us originally and I am very much grieved to-day that we are approached to buy these farms. We are very poor, we natives; we have to pay hut tax and provide for our own living. Where could we raise any money to buy these farms?

Chief KAFULA.] If I buy a piece of ground in another chief's area, won't the chief be annoyed with me? We cannot promise that the man who purchases a piece will be able to hold it. A native aims at the object of getting a good crop on that piece of land he intends to buy. If the ground is not suitable the man is bound to lose it, because he could not raise the means of paying for it. If you are a hard working man you can make a living on a piece of ground that is well watered and has good arable land on it. If I had any intention of buying land I would approach my tribe and ask their opinion and then I would go and personally see it. I think a man should view a property first before he buys it.

Chief TSHUTSHUTSHU.] We have heard what you have said about the Government allocating certain areas to the natives for the purpose of purchase. The Natives Land Commission made it plain to us, but I wish to point out that buying land is not buying cattle, because if you buy cattle you get the benefit of the milk for your children and if you buy a piece of land there is very great doubt if you can hold it. It is always very hard for a native to hold land that he has bought. We would be very glad if the Government would allow those farms which have been indicated to go back to their respective chiefs under whose areas they were. We hear what the Government says: that we can purchase land if we wish. We know it is called "soil" and we do not know what buying soil means. The only thing we could discuss amongst ourselves is that our father has pointed out certain pieces of land which we natives can buy if we like to; we will keep that in our hearts. We are glad to hear that the Government is not going to rush this matter, as it would resemble a stone on your head which would overthrow you if you were rushed.

Chief MKUZANGWE'S representative.] I think this matter has been spoken of before. We thought that the Government would perhaps give us back the land that they took away from us, as at the present we are down on the bare rocks; we hardly reap any crops at all. We would gladly buy if we had the means, but we have plague and poverty amongst us and we have no means. We thought the Government would allot these farms back to the locations. We like the pieces of land very much which are on the boundary of the location close to our ward and would have been very glad if we could move some of our kraals back there so as to reap another crop again.

By Mr. Evans.] I live in the location under the boundary of "Oliphant's Hoek." It is dry country and very hot. It is not very good cattle country; there is not much grazing. I was born there and my father before me. I am quite content where I am, but my fields are getting rather small.

Chief SIDANGE.] We thank the Committee very much for the information given us to-day. We are glad to hear that the Government is willing to sell land to us natives, but those lands allocated to us are full of krantzes and we are unable to purchase. Perhaps one native would like to buy a piece of land and it is not quite suitable in his chief's ward—he would perhaps have some difficulty in getting a piece in another chief's ward. We would have been very glad if the Government had taken into consideration that we have been down below the krantzes for a very long time, and they would give part of the farms back to us. We are not living in the location because we are content and get everything we want. It is just because our ancestors lived there and we like the place, but we would like more fertile land so as to be able to get better crops. Anyone caring to buy a piece of land may do so, but he will buy a piece of almost bare rock; he will be proud of it —to show the natives he owns a piece of land—although he would not derive a living from it. These natives living on the thorn farms do not gain very much, because they pay their taxes and get food in advance from the farmers, for which they have to work. I beg to ask the Natives Land Committee that as we have lived for such a long time in these thorns they recommend the Government to give us a portion of these farms (indicates "Mara," "Mist" and "Kroomplaats").

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, my ward is very thickly populated. I have difficulty in finding a place for a new kraal. We live near the Untunjambili—at Mandhlaletisa. We have great difficulty in driving our cattle because the fences are so close to the kraals and cattle are not allowed on the farms.

Chief NYONIYEZWE.] I have nothing much to say, being of the same opinion as the other chiefs. I wish to thank the Government for allocating some farms to the natives for the purpose of buying, so that if a man is desirous of purchasing a piece of land the Government will give him a piece.

By Mr. Chapman.] I have not paid for the farm "Witte Krans"; I have no means to pay for it and no hope of paying for it, because, as you say, it is very hard for a native to buy a farm. It is 1,500 acres in extent and I have to pay £1,500 for it.

By Mr. Evans.] This is the fifth year since I commenced negotiations. I have not paid anything of the capital; I am just commencing now.

Chief SOBANTU'S representative.] I think it is very hard for a native to buy a

piece of land. We cannot even pay off our debts for purchase of mealies, and I think that Government should take pity on us and give us back certain lands. As you have told us, I do not think there is any man in our district who will buy a farm. We are in a very bad position where we are at present; the land is very dry and the heat is fearful. The natives plant on the Tugela banks, but the river gets in flood and washes all the crops away. All the other chiefs have voiced their opinions and I have nothing to add.

The meeting terminated about mid-day.

COPY.

Krantzkop, Natal,
29th March, 1917.

The Honourable Commission of Enquiry into
Recommendations for further Native Reserve Lands.

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit a written statement, being observations arising out of a scrutiny of the Report of the Commissioners on Native Lands.

The Commissioners show in their report that of those lands which may be regarded as more or less irrecoverably set apart for native occupation only, namely—Native Reserves, Mission Reserves, Crown Lands and Native Farms, there are:—

In the Cape Province	1 sq. mile per	76 of total native population.
In Natal	1 sq. mile per	92 of total native population.
In the Transvaal	1 sq. mile per	188 of total native population.
In the Orange Free State	1 sq. mile per	456 of total native population.

The adoption of the recommendations of the Commissioners would increase those lands as follows:

In the Cape Province	1 sq. mile per	66 of total native population.
In Natal	1 sq. mile per	70 of total native population.
In the Transvaal	1 sq. mile per	68 of total native population.
In the Orange Free State	1 sq. mile per	302 of total native population.

From a comparison of the foregoing it is obvious that the Transvaal and Orange Free State have not provided adequately or at least in the same way as the Cape Province and Natal have provided for their native population by setting aside large tracts of lands to be occupied solely by natives. Under the recommendations, the Transvaal—in the matter of area is to make good that former deficiency, and the Cape Province is adding further large tracts of lands to its former reserves, as also Natal, but the Orange Free State still lags seriously behind.

The people of Natal feel bound to protest against any further alienation of lands in Natal, and they naturally enquire why it should be necessary to set apart further lands when the Free State can be left in the state of 1 sq. mile of land only for every 302 of native population. If the natives of the Free State are able to exist 302 to the square mile in the Free State where the land is not so fertile as in Natal, what difficulty have they in Natal 92 to the square mile, where in addition there are large tracts of European owned land occupied solely by natives, which does not obtain in the Free State.

This point is emphasised when we take into consideration the intensity of the European Agricultural population, as shown by the last Census. Deducting the lands enumerated above as more or less solely devoted to native occupation, from the total area in case of each Province and regarding this as the agricultural area, the European agricultural population per square mile was as follows:—

In the Cape Province, 2 $\frac{5}{6}$ per square mile.
In Natal, 2$\frac{1}{4}$ per square mile.
In the Transvaal, 2 per square mile.
In the Orange Free State, 1$\frac{1}{4}$ per square mile.

This, however, does not reveal the true state of the intensity of the European agricultural population, for in three provinces there are large tracts occupied solely by natives. Deducting these the case stands as follows:—

In the Cape Province, 2 $\frac{6}{7}$ European agriculturists per sq. mile.
In Natal, 3 $\frac{1}{5}$ European agriculturists per sq. mile.
In the Transvaal, 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ European agriculturists per sq. mile.
In the Orange Free State, 1$\frac{1}{4}$ (the same) European agriculturists per sq. mile.

The case of Natal, however, is still more exceptional for large areas are under cultivation solely by Indians, not enumerated in the report, and Indians are not included in the Census as agriculturists, so that the European agricultural population on lands worked by Europeans in Natal would probably be somewhere near 4 per sq. mile, whilst the other Provinces would stand at the same as enumerated above.

The recommendations of the Commissioners are thus shown absurdly inconsistent, for in the Orange Free State if it was found unnecessary to provide more land for natives than 1 square mile per 302 of the total native population, where there are less agriculturists per acre than elsewhere in the Union, why has it been found necessary to disturb the position in so far as Natal is concerned?

The gravity of the situation is enhanced where Natal is concerned when we compare the character of the lands to be alienated. In the Orange Free State it is too infinitesimal to consider. The lands set apart in the Transvaal may be understood when a remark printed in the report, referred to lands at present waterless that "it was too good for natives." The land of the northern Transvaal has only been capable of rearing a very feeble kind of native, who is astonished at the robustness of the Zulu. The Lichtenburg land is not much better. In the Cape Province it is proposed to set apart a further 1,313,055 morgen. Of this 1,097,223 morgen are situated in Vryburg and Mafeking districts —practically desert. Of the remainder, and what is a very grave consideration for Natal, as restricting the European area adjacent to us, 112,672 morgen are in Matatiele and Umzimkulu and 103,160 morgen only are found elsewhere.

In the case of Natal all the lands set apart are with few exceptions suitable for European occupation. The largest tracts of land are to be located in Northern Zululand, which has been described as the finest stock lands in the whole of Africa, and Natal cannot help feeling that a great injustice is being thrust upon it, which must be resisted at all cost.

The Commissioners pointed out that the percentage of the total Province set apart for natives in Natal was already out of all proportion to the other Provinces of the Union, which bring us to consider what is the policy being pursued at present "to solve the native question for all time." As a member of the Union Parliament recently said—"As the years go by are we to continue setting aside larger and larger tracts of land for native occupation? And does this solve the "native question"? In the first place, if we continue to set apart further land in Natal there will be very little of Natal left. Is it desirable to have natives largely outnumbering Europeans in any one Province, both for Europeans and natives?

It seems to the writer that there is a native question, or an Indian question, or any other question because there are no settled finalities in South Africa. We have not decided whether we are going to aim at securing good for the native or securing harm. The whole of South Africa seems afraid to pronounce against those people who have no interest in the welfare of the native except keeping him in a state of perpetual subjection for work as labourers. Until we shoulder our responsibility so often talked about, and on which we claim right of decision as best capable to decide, and say we shall work for the ultimate civilisation of the native, and not discourage missionary effort at every turn simply because it works to that end.

When we do this we shall teach the native how to work, how to make better use of the lands set apart for him. Has the Government attempted that? At present the native cannot hold up against the European, and lands must be set apart for his sole occupation, otherwise he would submerge. Teach him how to hold his own better than at present, and there is already sufficient lands set apart for him to receive his apprenticeship.

It remains to consider to whose interest it would be to have the natives segregated in vast areas. In the opinion of the writer, civilisation will penetrate such tracts less easily. The native is a long way from the work we require him to pursue in our service. Should the native get out of hand he would vastly outnumber the Europeans in Natal. It may be to the interest of Johannesburg to have Natal converted into a huge native reserve.

Natalians must protest from feelings of self-preservation against having a vast horde of natives on their own borders which is to gradually encroach upon the remaining land, and from having their voice weakened in the councils of the Union from lack of numbers and dimension. A wrong policy is being pursued, at least so far as Natal is concerned. An injustice is being thrust upon us by taking our good lands, where other Provinces only give their poor lands, for the native.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. TRANMER.

Report of Meeting held in Magistrate's Court Room, Richmond, Natal, during forenoon of 31st March, 1917.

Mr. Evans made the usual introductory address to the assembly.

Mr. W. P. PAYN (as delegate from the Richmond Agricultural Society).] Well, I think, gentlemen, that the lands that are demarcated are not very large in this district, but as far as we can see the land which is taken—Mr. Harries' and Mr. Cockburn's—we

think that these lands are not suitable for natives on account of their being rough. There are many parts in which they cannot do anything in the way of cultivation, and they could not be used to better advantage than they are at present. There are also some lands on the other side of the Umkomanzi belonging to Mr. Marwick and Mr. J. Mackenzie; we are of the same opinion as regards these. They are quite valuable, but if handed to natives all they could possibly use them for would be to run a few goats, and my experience is that that is of no benefit to anyone.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is good winter and summer veld. There is not much arable land at the bottom, I think. We never went right down to the bottom to see; we went on the tops. There are bits of bends in the rivier, but I am not prepared to say how much there is there. Mr. Charles Nicholson is not able to be here to-day, but his views were just the same as those expressed by the others.

Mr. A. H. COCKBURN.] Some of the members who have spoken came down to my farms and Mr. Hackland's and they saw what is being done there. Before dipping the farm would have been practically useless, but now it is quite as good as any I can get in Natal for winter and summer for cattle. I would not exchange this farm, acre for acre, for any farm I know as a stock farm. I refer to "Spitzkop," "Groot Hoek" and the smaller pieces—"Inhlakuza View."

By Mr. Evans.] I have about 400 head of cattle there now. There is about 1,000 acres top veld on "Spitzkop"; it was surveyed recently. "Inhlakuza View" is all top veld and all used by Mr. Hackland, every bit of it. Both parts are in high veld. Mr. Hackland has lived there for the last twenty years. The 400 head of cattle run on the slopes. In the winter we run over 600 head of cattle on the farms "Spitzkop." I have only had the farm three years. I bought it from the Land and Colonisation Company and it did not belong to me when it was picked for the native area. There are very few natives on it. It carries a lot of stock. I live on the adjoining farm "Kleinthal" and use it all as one farm. I have lived there all my life. "Holt Lodge" also belongs to me. "Spitzkop" is all fenced and sub-divided, but there are very few buildings. I put the wattles on "Spitzkop" before I really knew the boundaries.

Mr. W. COMRIE, J.P.] We thank this Committee for coming to Richmond. I must again voice the feeling that we are strongly averse to any more land being marked off for natives until the present locations are used to better advantage. The feeling is that if these farms are marked off, it will be many years before the natives can take advantage of them. There is very strong feeling in the district and I think I must express it. Mr. Hackland's farm has been carried on for the past 30 years. It was carried on by Mr. Moore before him, and I consider it would be particularly hard luck unless Government is prepared to give him a better farm. I consider it would be extremely hard. With regard to these other farms: the land will certainly not be suitable for small settlements, which I understand is the intention of the purchase system by natives. Now, the land there is certainly absolutely unsuitable for that. It makes really very good farms for a white man on a pretty big scale. I understand there are some lands on the river bank which would be available for irrigation, but it will mean a considerable amount of money to be expended before they could be made available, and if these farms are marked off it means the owners will not care about spending a large sum of money to bring about improvements. I am speaking of the Richmond district.

By Mr. Chapman.] Mr. Hackland's farm is a very rough farm. He has made his living here; he has a family of five kids and he is doing well. It is right on the left of "Inhlakuza" and is partly high veld. He has wattle plantations there. He is one of our most forward farmers and he has had an up-hill game.

Mr. W. J. MAPSTONE.] As a member of the Agricultural Society, in company with several other members, I visited these lands "Spitzkop" and "Groot Hoek" and we also saw Mr. Hackland's. I know the country well. I have had 36 years of farming in this country, so I have a fairly good idea of what a farm is suitable for. These farms would practically be almost useless to cut up for native areas. Mr. Cockburn's—the bulk of it—is very steep slopes running to the Umkomanzi, which no native could utilise to advantage for themselves or for the State. Under European occupation they are good farms for rearing cattle and there are sufficient cultivation lands on the top to make them very serviceable farms for Europeans, but under native occupation there is very little that the natives could beneficially occupy and it applies practically to all these lands. That was my honest conviction after, as I say, 36 years' farming experience in this country, that those lands could not be beneficially occupied by natives. I consider it would be a great waste to hand them over to natives.

Mr. A. H. Cockburn.] There are small bits of land in the valley. There are two good flats on "Spitzkop" which would be very valuable if irrigated, either for cotton or any other crops. It is being cultivated on this side, and it is being cultivated with melies—that is the flat on this side right on the river. That land if irrigated would be very valuable. The two flats on the river will be valuable and if it was cut up in 10 acre plots for niggers it would be all right, but to take the whole farm would be of no use as they could not cultivate.

By Mr. Chapman.] Regarding "Inkoman"—it belongs to my brother, *i.e.* the small

portions. I do not think there is more than about 600 or 700 acres of Crown lands left. Mr. Fawcus owns 1,000 acres on which he has stock and gets labour for his wattle company. They pay no rent, as far as I know.

Mr. E. HARRIES.] I have had "Groot Hoek" and "Dartnell" five years. I have five different farms filled with wattle and when my cattle get thin I send them down there and change them in winter. I plough the tops with mealies, which I sell to natives near; the Kafirs cannot grow enough for themselves. There is only one place on "Groot Hoek" where there is water. It would be absolutely wasted for Kafirs: they cannot cultivate it. I have about 600 head of cattle on those farms. There are flats on the river which I also cultivate.

By Mr. Evans.] They are getting cattle very slowly and a Kafir will never get 600 head of cattle. They would have no room to cultivate, and there is not sufficient water. There are pieces on the river bank which I am cultivating now. The top lands need to be fertilized very heavily.

By Mr. Chapman:] I have about 30 kraals on "Groot Hoek" and they all supply labour. This farm is 6,000 acres and the other ("Dartnell") is 2,000 acres in extent. I would have to sell out if I did not have these farms. My cattle go down to the river for water.

Mr. J. MARWICK.] I wish to corroborate what those other speakers have said with regard to these farms in this division. I am intimately acquainted with the lands and I can corroborate all that has been said, so I won't add anything to that. I am here more particularly in connection with those farms on the other side of the Umkomanzi, starting with "Bromham Hall." This is really a tip-top farm and it has been in native occupation as long as I can remember and they have ruined it to a large extent, but it is still a very good farm. The man who has bought it intends to live there—young McKenzie. He is putting up a house there, and if it remains in a native area he will only put up a wattle and daub shanty. The next farm—"Resolis"—is a good farm. There are a lot of natives on it, but they do not grow their food, which they buy from the Europeans there. There is a farm near the Waterfall Hotel which belongs to Henry Harris—"Mimosa Brae." Nearly all the natives have cleared because he told them they would have to work, so they cleared out. They did not like the look of Mr. Harris; they had been accustomed to having a landlord whom they need not pay. "Waterfall" is quite a good farm. 1,500 acres of it has recently been allotted to an applicant—a Mr. Ivins—who has just put up a place there and is going there with his family. This has been allotted within the last two years. The next part of it is 1,500 acres which is still Crown Lands. There have been 4 applicants for it to my knowledge and the applicants had to appear before the Land Board. They were told the papers were in Pretoria and they could not get a reply. My son was one of the applicants. Some months afterwards we were told it was withdrawn altogether. The price was 18s. 6d. per acre. The next part of "Waterfall" belongs to me. I have had it for 14 years and have made full use of it. I have about 500 head of cattle there and we grow anything in the neighbourhood of 1,500 bags of mealies a year, which are sold—that is, the bulk of them—to natives adjoining. We rarely carry mealies up to the top. There are 3,500 acres there and 200 acres under irrigation. I have been going on improving, but I am stopping it now. It has been occupied by proxy ever since I have had it, but I have several sons coming on.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is fairly hot there, but the valley is being filled up from end to end. I am satisfied that there will be Europeans on the flats in the Umkomanzi in a short time, only it is very inaccessible—there are no roads. If there were roads you would find a large amount of cultivation down there. The next farm to mine—"Rankelour"—belongs to Mr V. W. Taylor, who has roughly 3,500 to 4,000 acres there. He goes in largely for cultivation. He has good buildings on the place and he has been living there for 6 or 7 years. He also gets rid of the bulk of his crop down there, except when there is a good season, but even in the best of seasons a large proportion of the mealies in that valley are sold to the natives locally. The next farm to that belongs to Mr. J. L. McKenzie and has been occupied for the past 40 years. It has houses and irrigation furrows and has been in continuous occupation for 25 years. Plunkett was on it for a time and, latterly, Mr. McKenzie's son. Then there are Crown Lands and small native-owned farms and then Kirkman has a farm—"Mazoe" of which he makes full use. He runs his stock on the top in summer times and cultivates also. Then there are patches of native-owned land and then Mr. Arnold has a farm on the tops adjoining his one which runs down to the river, of which he makes full use. Then you come to Mr. Comrie's—"Gracourt"—which has been fully occupied for a number of years. There are 200 acres of wattles and it is being made full use of. I contend, gentlemen, that if this land is left in the schedule it is going to be a calamity to the natives and to the owners of the farms. The latter will stop putting on fresh improvements. The native will go back to his old way of doing things (*Mr. Evans*: He has never got out of them, has he?) and will have to go further afield to buy food, so I think it will be in the interests of everybody to take that lot of land out of the schedule.

Mr. A. H. Cockburn.] I hold a bond on "A.W.," which belongs to a native Msegeni. Lot 102 is native-owned; I think it belonged to Majosi, who is dead now. The piece was bought from Government and they could not pay their instalments. I have a

bond on it ("A.W.") now. They pay the interest to me; they are very backward with that at times. I do not think they will ever pay the capital.

Mr. J. L. McKENZIE, Senr.] I have really nothing more to say than what Mr. Marwick has said, and I think it would be only detaining the meeting to repeat what this gentleman has said.

Mr. A. H. Cockburn.] We had meeting after meeting of the Agricultural Society and, of course, resolutions were passed. We have had big meetings at Mid-Illovo and here, and very strong resolutions have been sent forward about the whole native Bill. It has not been ourselves alone who own property; the thing has been taken quite strongly by the whole community. We are in great hopes that some of the Executive Committee are going to Capetown.

Mr. W. J. Mapstone.] At the last meeting we had in reference to this Land Act we passed a resolution with the idea of sending a representative to give evidence before the Select Committee, but at the same time the district was prepared to pay for a member out of our own pockets if it was necessary. That is, of course, in connection with the Bill.

Mr. J. Marwick.] I may mention that the Natal Agricultural Union thought about appointing someone to go down and give evidence. There was a Committee appointed to watch events.

Mr. W. P. Payn.] I think, gentlemen, this division is pretty well unanimous that the locations the Kafirs have at present are quite ample for what they require.

Mr. W. Comrie, J.P.] An Asiatic can acquire land all over without any restrictions. We think it will lead to a very great deal of trouble. A native and an Indian may come to me and the native wants a piece of land. I will have to go to a lot of formality before I can take him on, whereas the Asiatic can buy. It will cause a lot of trouble. Naturally, the Asiatic would never expect any locations. That is one very important point that we object to. You will find that nearly the whole of Richmond is in the hands of Asiatics.

Mr. J. L. McKenzie, Senr.] We wish you to put piece 105 B in the Kafir area. We want to sell because we are surrounded by natives. This is the man who wants to buy (Chief Mququka); he has a piece of land in Camperdown Division. This lot he wants to buy for his people: it would be transferred to him. "Kangashe's Valley belongs to a European, Mr. Nicholson, but is unoccupied. "Waterton" belonged to Mr. Cooper; I do not know that he is occupying. It is broken, rough country. Lot 103 belongs to Anderson Bros; a man named Turner lives there and is cultivating a little. It is a good stock farm. Lot 104 belongs to Mr. Nicholson; it is unoccupied. "Antelope" is used as a stock farm. Lot 105 is about 2,000 acres. It has been bought by the chief for the tribe. The man wants to buy it from me. I do not think he is paying me a bigger price than I could get from a European. I think they will be in a position to pay for it.

Report of Meeting held with Natives in Magistrate's Court Room, Richmond, Natal, upon termination of that with Europeans.

The magistrate (Mr. S. Harrison) introduced the Committee. Mr. Greer acted as interpreter. Mr. Chapman made the usual introductory address to the assembly, to whom the boundaries of the recommended area are carefully described.

Chief MQOLOMBENI.] It is an unfertile country and no food there. There are no crops to be obtained in the area described.

By Mr. Chapman.] There are people living on those farms. They buy their food on the tops. The Europeans planted mealies down below, but they were scorched up. Last year they got a little crop: this they got because they were white men—ours died because we are black. We cultivated but the crops died off.

Chief MGUQUKA.] I have no land near the Umkomanzi, because I reside myself in the Camperdown district. I have also a small following of my tribe in the Richmond division. We asked the last Commission what the lands were like that they would purchase for us, because we failed to see how we could be placed on krantzes and rocks. We told the last Commission that we would wait and see, but now we see another Commission here to-day. We like the tops where we could plough and get crops. That was all we said before the last Commission.

By Mr. Chapman.] I live near the Umlaas River in Camperdown Division. It is high veld. I plough and plant a lot of mealies, sometimes reaping 200 to 300 bags in a season. We are not used to tying our cobs in the huts, as the natives do there; we reap and shell our mealies into bags. I have spoken to Mr. McKenzie with reference to a farm towards the Umkomanzi. There are a number of members of my tribe who are going in with me to buy this land. I have some land—a small piece in Maritzburg division, near the town, where members of my tribe live. I live on private farms; I have no location.

By Mr. Evans.] I pay £3 a hut on the farm where I live.

Chief BUBULA.] What have I to say? I have a location of my own in the thorn country. I do not want to buy any land. I myself reside on private lands, but I have a location where the members of my tribe are. I pay £5 a hut rent. Government can see for themselves where they could give us more land and point out a place that would suit us.

By Mr. Evans.] My location is absolutely filled up to-day. I pay £5 a hut because the Umkomanzi is very hot and dry and there is no food there. I have paid a lot of money for rent for this reason.

DAVID HLONGWANE, Acting Chief of the Indaleni Mission, Amakolwa.] We thank the Committee for coming here to explain matters with reference to the land and for pointing out lands which can be purchased by us. It is hard, because at times we wish to sell our property to Europeans and also purchase from them. The way in which it helped was that we could bond our property to Europeans. It appears now that what is being done to-day is putting us back. We rejoiced when we were as before with the Europeans: I mean that land we had bought we could re-sell to Europeans again. Now we will not be able to bond our property to Europeans and we will not be able to hire it to Indians.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I live on the mission reserve. We are all "Amakolwa" there. They are desirous of buying land. Some of them have bought land outside the reserve from Europeans. We still have the farms we have been borrowing and re-paying on. Yes, I want to have the opportunity of continuing to buy amongst Europeans and that is the wish of the people I represent.

Chief SIDALA.] I have not much to say. We thank you for dividing the land so as to give us separate lands, because our natives leave us owing to quarrelling with the owners of the land on which they live and then removing. I ask for a small piece of land for myself. I wish to be given it by Government.

By Mr. Evans.] I live on Mr. Clark's farm "Delectable Dale." All my people live on private lands—none on location. They are living on private lands, but they quarrel with the owners and leave, so I shall remain alone. They go to the chiefs who have locations. My children work in lieu of rent, so I pay none.

Chief ZIDUNGE.] We thank Government for apportioning off the lands for us—the thorn lands where, if we have no food, we can purchase it from Europeans. We shall receive strength to purchase land from Government where they allow us to buy it.

By Mr. Evans.] I live on Mr. Marwick's farm which he has recently purchased. I lived there before he acquired it. My people all live on private lands. With Mr. Marwick the arrangement is that the children work in lieu of rent. Before that we paid £3 a hut. Natives generally do not like living on private farms, but we have nothing to say against the man who does remain there. A great many natives have left me and gone on to different farms and to locations also.

Chief MSIWAKENI.] We thank the Commission for coming. The last Commission was here and we thought that we would receive a reply from them, but we have heard none. It is nice to purchase land, but very hard to buy rock and precipices. I am unable to climb up krantzes and where the Commission points out to-day my horse could not ascend. How is it that Government wish to throw us down into the hollow? Why do not they allot us a piece of flat land, like this table, where our horses could graze, and not throw us down in the thorns amidst the rocks? We wish to buy, but I could not myself, because I have no natives; all my natives live on private lands. All the cattle which helped kraal heads are dead. Men only remain to-day and they help us by working for Europeans. Where will the natives on private lands receive strength if we have to buy where the rock rabbits live? I wish to buy land, but I ask for a location, as I have not one and all my tribe is on private lands.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, my people have left me; a lot have gone to the mission reserve, others to the Inadi Location (Zwartkop). Some have become "Amakolwa"; others have not. I live on the town lands of Richmond, where I was placed by Government.

By Mr. Chapman.] I should like to get a farm where my natives could live and we could pay for it jointly. I would like to be allowed to make my own choice as to where I could purchase the land and not be directed where to buy.

The meeting terminated about 1 p.m.

Copy of Notes taken by Mr. M. Evans at Meeting held at Chaka's Kraal on the 5th April, 1917, during the forenoon.

Present: Messrs. G. H. Hulett, A. Townsend, T. E. Hamlin, T. G. E. Avern-Taplin, H. Heenan, H. E. Essery.

Mr. G. H. HULETT said a representative meeting of farmers did not desire any natives forcibly removed from their farms, as they desire their labour. Since Indian

immigration was stopped farmers have encouraged native families to live on their farms rent free, paying them current rates of wages. Landowners in this district are getting more applicants than they require. In consequence none of the land recommended should be a native area.

Mr. H. E. ESSERY said there were only four native-owned farms in the area adjoining Mapumulo Division. The two big farms owned by the Natal Land and Colonization Company are native occupied, the natives paying £3 a hut rent. These lands are open grazing ground. The Crown lands are rugged; some of them have been taken up and reverted. He does not know whether the Land Board have priced these farms. The farms "Wellvale" (Knox) and the farms owned by Estate Armstrong are not occupied by Europeans; they are occupied by natives paying £3 a hut. The farm remainder "Spitzkop," owned by Sir Marshall Campbell, has been sold by him to an Indian. Chetty, who paid £2 an acre; Sir Marshall paid £1. The only residents (European) are Essery, Taplin, H. T. Laing and Boyce (l.n.w.) On the farm "Dingwall" Nicholson has cultivation and his barracks; his mill and residence are in the white area on the north of the river. One of his overseers lives on "Dingwall." There are no whites on the Glendale settlement excepting Laing and Boyce.

Report of Evidence taken in Magistrate's Court Room, Stanger, Natal, during forenoon of April 7th, 1917.

Mr. G. H. HULETT, M.P.C.] I have been instructed by Sir Liege Hulett & Sons, Ltd., to appear before this Committee and to ask that the lands known as "Crown Lands" (unsold)—what used to be known as "Mission Lands," Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, together with the lands known as the "Ladder Lots" (Nos. 54—58) be not included in the native area. The owners have intimated their intention to grow cane to feed the proposed line—I do not speak for 59b; 59c belongs to the Company. The reason the Company put forward for the exclusion of these lots is that they have already commenced a line—a little railway—and are bringing it to 36a, Mr. Pearson's property. It is the intention of the Company to proceed with that line through Mr. Pearson's property, through 34, then across the Nonoti and go through the Crown Lands just mentioned right on to the Company's property, Bulwer No. 1.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, we have not obtained the sanction of the Lands Department yet. The land has been applied for and the ballot taken place, but never been allotted in view of this delimitation, but everyone of the applicants for this land has intimated that if they get the land they are prepared to plant cane to feed the line, and those who are now occupying Nos. 10, 11, 5, 4 and 15 have made application to the Company to make that line and undertaken to grow cane. Some, I believe, have planted cane in anticipation of this line going through. As far as the Company is concerned they want from S. corner of 41 to N.E. boundary of "Ladder" lots to N.E. boundary line of farm "Bulwer" to the Tugela.

By Mr. Evans.] The lot owned by the native formerly is now sold to an Indian, two lots, in fact. Boziana had three lots, but sold two and has one, part of which he rented to an Indian. The Company instructs me to say that it is of vital importance to them that these lands should be cultivated with cane, as they are contemplating enlarging their mills in order to cope with the cane to be grown on these lands; that the lands are eminently suited for sugar cane, and, with regard to their "Bulwer" Estates, it is their intention to cut it up and lease them to sugar growers. A condition of the lease will be that they grow sugar to supply their mills. That is as regards "Bulwer No. 1." "Bulwer No. 2" will be used for grazing purposes—a policy which is being carried out in other parts, where a portion of the lands is allotted for grazing grounds or commonage, and "Bulwer No. 2" will be used for that purpose.

By Mr. Chapman.] I am instructed to say that if they are not excluded and they cannot lease those lands to Europeans, that that line will not go beyond the boundary of Mr. Pearson's property and won't go through his properties. If this line is put down Mr. Pearson will have a mile and a half of tramline through his property. This would mean a big loss to him if it is given up.

Mr. J. V. PEARSON.] Yes, I think the lands indicated are very suitable for sugar, because the lie of the whole of this land is downwards towards the line and the slope is down towards the Nonoti. We could thus get a down grade to the tram line.

Mr. G. H. Hulett.] The tram-line has been surveyed right up to "Bulwer." As a matter of fact, the line is commenced as far as Mr. Pearson's.

Mr. A. E. JACKSON.] I should like to ask if my land and Mr. Tollner's is not suitable for cane?

Mr. G. H. Hulett.] Yes, it is eminently suitable for cane.

Mr. Jackson.] The whole of that land is very suitable because at a small expense one could put up a pumping plant and irrigate the lot. (Continuing) I desire to give my

evidence. I am the owner of "Sunbury" and Lot 66c, which has been included in the proposed native area. I object to this land being placed in that area, because it is eminently suitable for cane and it depreciates the value of the land. I am also acting on behalf of Mr. Tollner, owner of "Essiena," and he also objects to his land being included as the greater portion of it is suitable for cane, in fact you may say the whole of it, because although the lower end is dry it would be an easy matter to pump water by gravitation. In view of the proposed tram-line to "Bulwer" it will be an easy matter to plant cane now, because it will take a very small line to link up.

By Mr. Chapman.] The private individual would do the connecting up if the Company would not. I know the lots described by Mr. Hulett and they are eminently suitable for cane, together with "Bulwer No. 1." I may say that the natives themselves do not desire this Act. As a rule they desire to be near Europeans; they are more and more taking to coming nearer to Europeans because their boys and girls can get labour, and another argument they use is that they can easier get food in times of scarcity. The line brings mealies up and they get them cheaper. If this land is left as a native area it will only be a wilderness, whereas otherwise it will be cultivated. The native only cultivates a patch here and there, whereas the European does not select his lands—he cultivates the whole lot.

By Mr. Evans.] I have had 66c about 20 years. It has never been occupied during my time by a European; the cane had not gone ahead in the old times. I have had native and coolie tenants on it. The same remarks apply to "Sunbury." Natives pay me at the rate of £2 a hut; they are under no obligation to give service—they can go where they like all the time.

By Mr. Chapman.] The land is adjoining land belonging to Bodasing, which is the same class and on which cane has grown very well.

By Mr. Evans.] There is no homestead on either place. "Sunbury" really belonged to McDonald at one time. There is a European living on a portion of "Sunbury" in a house he is building himself.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, natives are desirous of buying land in patches. Very good mealies could be got on this land. Natives are planting less and less; their wives are emancipated—they realise that others can go out and work and bring money home. Now the women won't work. There has been a complete revolution as far as native affairs are concerned in that respect. Now there is never a surplus; they have to buy. The women prefer to work for togt for white people to going and planting for themselves; they say it is cheaper for them now. They cannot preserve their mealies now in pits since the death of their cattle. Some of the natives have cattle on my farms. Some of them plough—just a little. No doubt Mr. Tollner would go in for irrigation or lease it to Europeans; it is very rich land if it gets sufficient water. The rainfall is not too good. It is just the average—35 to 40 inches per year. All these lands are suitable for dairying purposes.

Mr. G. H. Hulett.] Yes, a European can make a living on a block of 300 acres in that area; it is good land.

By Mr. Evans.] I do not want to take upon myself to suggest anything about another person's land. I would rather not, but I will go to this length and say that land contiguous to an industrial establishment—where the people can get their produce turned into money readily—that it would be absolutely wrong, Sir, to in any way impede the progress of that district. Where there are prairie districts which absolutely cannot and will not lend themselves to development, those are the districts which might be taken for natives, especially where they are contiguous with native locations and where there is high land as well. There are areas which you have seen, gentlemen, which—if it has got to be done—are infinitely better to be taken away—where they are contiguous to the location and where they can keep a few cattle in preference to having to hold the land for their existence.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is a very fine brick building on "Bulwer" and also a large shed there. The house was occupied by my brother for years until Tinley Manor was acquired and the proposal to build a mill there was abandoned. It is about 18 years since the buildings were erected. There has not been a resident there for some time. The Company has been utilising the land under agreement with the Indians and natives, *i.e.* they plant mealies which the Company took over in lieu of rent, and it has been used for that purpose almost exclusively. Natives have leased this land for that purpose and a large number of Indians. Last year all the Indians got notice that they must abandon it because we wanted to go on with this scheme. It is a beautiful large house which could not be built to-day under £2,000, and you would not put up all the buildings on that place under £2,500. There is a paddock round the buildings.

Mr. H. C. SMITH (Secretary of the Planters' Association).] Re lots 62 and 66: there is practically a straight line there, but for some reason these two farms have been included. Hansen holds a sub-division of 66 and lives on it and Carl Weber owns the remainder, which is let to Indians. Lot 62 belongs to an Indian. A white man has a bond on it of £800. An Indian tenant has sugar cane on it and he has bonded his lease and cane for over £1,000. This gives you an idea of the value of that farm. It is an easy distance from the railway, as you see—about two miles. It struck me as rather invidious that those two farms should be included, particularly 62, which is of great value.

By Mr. Chapman.] I do not know how much cane there is—probably about 100 acres. It is good cane; it compares very well with other cane. I have not been specially instructed to ask for the exclusion of those farms. John Mattison is running this farm in the bend of the river as a stock farm. Lot 54: cane is planted on the major portion of it, belonging to Budasi; 53 and 55 belong to three Indians. Budasi is just selling parts of it at £8 an acre to other Indians. On sub-division A of "Sunbury" the Provincial Administration has recently put up a hostel for coloured children. I believe it is an elaborate place for the country. There are a lot of half-castes about there, but it is intended for half-castes from surrounding districts. The half-castes have sold all their rights on the land round there—"Sans Souci" and "Sunbury." We have had applications from natives to buy land, but not many. I do not know of any lands in this division north of the Umvoti which could be recommended as an area for natives.

Mr. H. A. CLARK.] Never a white man has lived on "Waterfall" for the last 33 years. Yes, that area was more occupied by Europeans in the past. "Spitzkop" and "Riet Valley" were covered with coffee and they had several white employees. Some of the adjoining farms also had white occupants. Lang has lived there for years and a man named Boyce. Of course "Riet Valley" is a rich farm and a splendid grazing farm, and the same with "Spitzkop"; that is really fitted for European occupation. It is all good land, but it is so isolated. There is certainly not much water there. There were a lot of natives on that part at one time. They have been ejected within the last 6 or 7 years because they would not pay their rents. They went into locations. With the exception of one or two farms, the northern area has simply been given over to the Indians and natives. I hear now that "Bulwer" is going to grow cane and have a tram-line. Mattison seems to go there himself; he is fencing the farm. Chadwick's farm has never had anything but natives on it. 66b has never been occupied by whites at any time. That land spoken of as growing cane—I do not think the land can be very good if it was sold with cane at £8 an acre. The Indian who sold it has been a cane farmer for many years. Yes, a tram-line would facilitate matters and there would be more cane grown. Mr. Clark gave further information with regard to occupation of farms in the areas.

Mr. G. H. Hulett.] "Illangwini" is an ideal place for natives to buy and I think they would, also "Lange Spruit."

Mr. A. J. S. MARITZ (Magistrate of Lower Tugela Division).] You will understand that as Magistrate of this Division I was in part responsible for the area that was proposed to be delimited. It was my recommendation, as a matter of fact, with a few minor alterations. In regard to the northern part of the area, conditions have considerably altered since then and I would like to amend my recommendations in that regard. There is the Crown land—well, that land I think should now be excluded, as well as "Bulwer 1 and 2." My reason for saying so is that it is intended—in fact, I think it is pretty well decided by Hulett & Co. to extend their tram system right through these Crown lands to "Bulwer 1 and 2," and that would make all this land—most of it—available for cane planting. It is valuable land, and the only reason why I included it was that it was cut off from everywhere. If this line was built it would, most of it, form good cane land. There is very little water, but that is a minor difficulty; it could be overcome by boring, I think. The tram-line would help other portions; it would affect all the lands adjoining the Crown lands. Yes, I agree with Mr. Hulett's recommendation as to the exclusion of the Crown lands, "Ladder" lots and "Bulwer."

By Mr. Evans.] A lot of "Bulwer" is broken and quite unfit for cultivation, but if "Bulwer" is included it will mean they will drop the tram scheme. I recommended a part of "Waterbosch" bounded by the road. "Illangwini" is very broken, but there are portions where the Indians are growing cane at present for Nicholson's mill. It is all very broken country abutting on location. It would be possible to take in a portion of "Lange Spruit," but I would leave it as it is.

By Mr. Chapman.] "Croydon" was sold at about 25s. an acre; it is the best portion of the river plots.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there is room for more in the Umvoti Mission Reserve. I think there is a tendency to keep them out. If natives are ejected they go to Mapumulo Division or go to other farms. No, there has been no demand for land in this Division; they have not the money. There is only one man buying land lately, and that is the Chief Boziana.

Report of Meeting with Natives, which succeeded Meeting of Europeans.

Mr. A. H. Clark acted as interpreter and Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which was a large and representative one.

Chief MALUMBU.] That is the only point which was worrying us—that we thought the natives would be removed from other lands and placed in these wards. We are

residing on private lands, but we have great trouble with our landlords, who are continually ejecting us.

Chief NDHLOVU.] I gave my evidence before the Commission in Durban, and I complain that the ward as given out by Government is too small. I want to know if there will be any other law in regard to private lands after these wards have been cut off. (*Mr. Evans* here addresses the assembly, and *Mr. G. H. Hulett*—speaking in Zulu—also gives a full explanation of the Bill.) The biggest part of my ward is on private lands outside of the area. It would be better that the law allows a person to go away and earn money—not to work for the landlord. If a person is at home at the time the rent is due I agree he should work for the landlord, but otherwise he should be allowed to go away and earn the rent. In the area that is marked out, if a lot of people do not wish to work for landlords and go to the area it is too small. Another point we do not like is that a person will have to make an agreement with his landlord and have to come to the Court. It would be preferable to make his own arrangements without coming to the Court. The Court here is to separate people who have quarrelled —not for people who wish to make an agreement. On private lands a person should be allowed to pay his rent if he wished to, or work. I am pleased to hear that this is not made law and I would like the Committee to put forward to Government that this clause that a man must go to the Court to have his agreement registered should not be put in the law at all. A person who is generally brought to the Court to sign a contract usually receives an advance. I am an old man, growing grey, and my father was born here before me. I would like the Committee to put before the Government that the law should go to where it was when my father lived here and not as is proposed now. All the laws when the Queen was over us were the best laws. All the native population is complaining. We are like people going into a river, and we are sinking as in deep water.

Chief MAKATI.] A little portion of my ward is in the area and a big portion left out. I think the whole lot should be included. Part of my people live in the area and part live out of it. I want the lot included in the area.

Chief JOHN BOZIANA.] The point which troubles me is that a native cannot buy land. Why is not a native allowed to purchase land outside of the recommended area? (*Mr. Evans* here addressed the assembly and later replied to further questions of speaker's.)

GEORGE MXABA (speaking for Chief MARTIN LUTULI.] I am pleased to hear that the Committee have not come here to make the law, but I agree with Chief Ndhlovu that we should go back to the laws of the olden days. I do not want to discuss this delimitation because I see it is born of the Act of 1913, which is leading the natives into slavery. Since the Act of 1913 a native has not been allowed to buy—an Indian has been allowed to purchase; a European has been allowed to purchase. But this land is ours; we originated on this land. I say the Government should do away with this Land Act. We have paid money and sent delegates over the seas in connection with this Act. We have lived here a long time with the Europeans and they have always looked after us properly. The Chief Ndhlovu is correct when he says we will be going down through this Land Act. The Government should have come here and asked for our views before anything was decided. They decide and then ask our opinion afterwards. When the Union was made the Europeans were called upon, but we natives of South Africa were not asked if we approved of it. The laws of the Union do not look after us as did the laws before the Union. The natives here are thin because they have no places in which to live. If a man is ejected from a farm and goes on to another he is made to work; he is not allowed to do as he pleases. We cannot forget the Government that was over us before, but if any native was asked if he had a complaint now with regard to this Land Act, every one would stand up.

Chief uPUMPELA.] This man wished to bring forward what was purely an administrative matter, and was advised to consult his magistrate.

SIPUNGI (appearing on behalf of Chief MBANGAIYIA).] Part of my chief's ward comes within the recommended area and part is within private lands. Will all the natives removing from private lands be allowed to squat in this area? Will the area be large enough to accommodate all the natives who wish to remove there? We did not know anything about this until the laws of the Transvaal were thrust upon us; this is a measure from the Transvaal. The Dutch have been placed above us and we have a lot of trouble. When under the Natal Government we were looked after properly.

The meeting terminated shortly before 1 o'clock.

COPY.

House of Assembly,
Cape Town,
12 March, 1917.

Dear Mr. Evans,—I find that under the recommendations of the Commission (majority) rather more than a third of my holding would be included in native area.

That holding consists of Lot 26 on the north bank of the Umvoti River (Victoria County) and Lot 13 on the south side and opposite, the river running between. The homestead is on 26, and a cottage is on 13. This latter was Crown Land to which freehold title was acquired a year or two ago, after some 15 instalments had been paid.

I had two objects in adding this lot to my original holding:

1. To secure land for one of my sons.

2. To secure the right to water power which could be taken out on 26.

After spending a considerable sum upon grafted citrus and other fruit trees, I had the misfortune through the carelessness of a manager, to have the large area of orchard badly overgrown with weeds, and, worse still, when those were destroyed and dry further carelessness resulted in the practically total destruction of the 1,200 or 1,500 trees by fire from the heaped dry weeds. Since then I have used it for grazing, until such time as my son now in Flanders shall decide whether to go on with work there or not. Probably not, as since I have taken up dairying I want more grazing than is obtainable on 26, where my tea and other plantations take up about half the farm.

I wish therefore to have 13 excluded from the native area, and trust that this may be arranged. Should you find this quite impossible, the native area should come down to the river only, leaving me in possession of the island in the river and thus assisting me in the matter of water power. I trust, however, that you will find it possible to make such recommendations as will avert the threatened cramping of my operations.

I write you because I shall not be able to give evidence.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed) W. F. CLAYTON.

Copy of Notes of Evidence taken at Empangeni, Zululand, by Mr. M. S. Evans during forenoon of 12th April, 1917.

Messrs. HIGGS, TAYLOR and LESTER, representing the Empangeni Planters' Association, Umhlatuzi Farmers' Association and Zululand Planters' Union, put in report of Special Committee. Mr. Lester put in a statement showing the progress made in this locality. A written statement was put in, and among other statements made was that each native hut only cultivated one quarter of an acre of ground and that there were 11 acres per individual in the whole area. (The statement with regard to cultivation seemed erroneous and there seemed some doubt as to its correctness in the minds of witnesses. The statement made with regard to output of sugar—34,800 tons—was admittedly too high for the Umfolozi division. Witnesses state it probably means the whole of Zululand. The statement that the whole of the Ntambanana lands were applied and over applied for was not quite correct; only 11 farms were surveyed.

Mr. Higgs put in report of Special Committee and plotted out the route actually taken by the Committee. He stated that they found splendid soil north of Inhlazane; the width of 15 miles mentioned is an approximation. The computation of 300 square miles is approximate also. The definition of area No. 1 (page 9) is wrong; they did not mean that the Umzineni was the eastern boundary, but the Hluhluwe and shore of False Bay is the eastern boundary.

Area No. 2: The Committee did not examine this area, as they did not go north of the Umduna River. The brief description of this area is from knowledge Mr. Higgs had previously obtained from previous visits. Mr. Higgs states this area is not densely bushed, water is scarce, fever is prevalent but not worse than other areas. There is also fly in parts of this area. Rainfall is unknown.

Area No. 3: For this area the Committee had to take information from Mr. Higgs. They intended reserve No. 13 and the course of the Umkuzi south-east of that reserve to be the eastern boundary.

Area No. 4: The evidence in regard to this area was practically from magistrate's report, but Mr. Higgs knew the country about half way up the river. He said they did not compute the given area on a knowledge of the quality of the country in the valley. They just made an approximate estimate which purported to include all the good land. They took 3½ miles on either side of the river as being suitable for sugar.

Area No. 5: Mr. Higgs explained that this area was intended to include the recommended area lying north east of the road from Somkele to Hlabisa and including the Hluhluwe River and its tributaries. It is the area marked pink in the map, bounded on east by location. The upper part of the recommended area is Game Reserve. This area is suitable for grazing and general agriculture and is similar to the Ntambanana area we examined. It is fairly well watered.

Area No. 1 runs partly through reserve. The Committee do not wish it to be understood they desire this to fall into native occupation unless a fair agreement could be arrived

at by which this land could be exchanged for other land. They think it eminently desirable that land on each side of a railway line should be in European area for a distance of three or four miles on each side of the line from Somkele to the Hluhluwe.

Occupation by natives:

Area No. 1: From Somkele station to the Hluhluwe River is average occupation. From there along the route taken by the special Committee there was little native occupation up to the Umduna River.

Area No. 2 is sparsely occupied. In earlier years it was more thickly populated. The drawback is want of water. The natives could grow crops in ordinary seasons.

Area No 3 is occupied by more natives than No. 2. There are a good many on the eastern slopes of the Ubombo.

Area No. 4: Below the Ubombo there is fair average occupation. In portions of the river bed there is fair occupation. In the bush country to the east there is fair occupation.

Area No. 5: Very little occupation in this area, though it is suitable for native occupation. They have been driven out by nagana.

Area No. 6 we have seen.

Nagana: In reference to Game Reserve in the Hluhluwe Valley, Mr. Higgs thinks this should be abolished and the Black and White Umfolozi Valley Reserve kept, but the game more efficiently kept within that area.

Mr. Tanner was asked how many natives were removed from the shooting area south of the Umfolozi and north of the Isangoyana Hills. He did not know the exact number, but was aware that natives had been removed and he knew that these natives were anxious to get back to that area. He was of opinion that the repatriation of these natives would be in the interests of the country, as they would be a barrier to prevent the undue excursion of game and consequent nagana. These natives would principally live along the banks of the river.

Mr. Tanner was of opinion that the game reserve between the Black and White Umfolozi Rivers could safely be maintained, providing this barrier to the south was established.

Mr. Higgs went on to say that the Special Committee looked at the land they visited from the point of sugar growing. The Ntambanana Valley was best suited for cattle and mealies and the same remarks apply to the Hluhluwe.

Mr. Taylor said that area No. 1 should not be looked at as purely a sugar proposition, but provision should be made for an adjacent area in which planters could grow stock. He wishes to say that Mr. Kirkwood, who signed the report, had done a good deal of transport riding in these areas.

Mr. MELLISH put in a resolution: "The witnesses should insist on the restoration of the delimitation of 1902/4 and that no suggestion of an increase in the area allotted to European settlement should be made."

Mr. Mellish represents the Empangeni and Umhlatuzi Associations and Planters' Union. This recommendation applies particularly to the area south of the Umfolozi River.

Report of Meeting with Natives at Empangeni on same date, Mr. G. Higgs acting as Interpreter.

Chief DUMEZWENI.] I know the recommended area south of the Enseleni. It is a good country for natives; there is not much sickness. It is not crowded by natives, but fairly populated with people who have lived there since the time of Tshaka. A few kraals have come in who left the country north of the Nseleni on account of nagana. The rainfall as a whole is good. Part of my tribe is in the Melmoth Division and part in this Division—about an equal number in each. (The returns show three times the number in the Melmoth Division.) Cattle die from nagana even south of the Nseleni, but it is more prevalent north of that river, otherwise cattle do exceedingly well. North of the Nseleni and up to the site of Cetshwayo's Emkandhlweni Kraal the natives are occupying the land, and the land from this kraal to the Isangoyana Hills is occupied. There have been no natives living in my ward which is in the upper portion of the White Umfolozi Valley and near the river since the days of Umpande; they could not occupy on account of nagana. Although the area is short of water and hot, they would occupy if there was no nagana, but they would only live close to the Umfolozi. (The portion referred to is mostly in reserve and runs from the Ilumbi Hill to the White Umfolozi and along the course of the river towards the sea to a point opposite the Isangoyana Hills, the lower portion being in recommended area.)

Chief UMSEYANA (of the Tembu Tribe).] I know the recommended area in this Division. It is not particularly good. Cattle will live there, but a good many die. The area varies in quality. South of the Melmoth-Empangeni road cattle do well; north of the road they only do indifferently. The best portion of this part of the country has

been taken for farms (the portion that lies east and north-east of the Ntambanana Rivers). The ground north of Ukikizana Spruit is bad, because water is scarce and there is nagana. None of my people live north of the Nseleni River, but this portion was occupied in the time of Umpande by other tribes who have not gone back.

The meeting terminated about midday.

COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

Surveyor-General's Office,
Pietermaritzburg,
27th January, 1917.

R. S. Lester, Esq.,
The Bungalow, Felixton,
Zululand.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inform you that it is regretted that the information asked for by you cannot be furnished. Beyond the fact that a large number of enquiries have been received for holdings in the Ntambanana Valley, I am unable to furnish you with any further information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. McCUE,
For Secretary for Lands.

COPY.

Umfolozi River,
5th February, 1917.

R. Standish Lester,
The Bungalow, Felixton.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Mackay, of Amatikulu, has written to me asking me to give you the tonnage of cane crushed by the St. Lucia Sugar Mill Co., Ltd., for the season ending 31st January, 1917. The tonnage of cane crushed was 80,501 tons, 1,080 lbs.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. BERNARD.

COPY.

The Zululand Planters' Union,
Amatikulu,
25th January, 1917.

R. Standish Lester, Esq.,
The Bungalow, Felixton.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 23rd January, the results for the last season will be something like as under: —

	Cane.	Sugar.
Amatikulu	109,000	10,500
Mandini cane to Darnall, say	8,000	800
Felixton	97,325	9,500
Empangeni	81,000	8,000
Armstrong's, Inyezane	—	say 2,000
Umfolozi, about	70,000	4/5,000
	365,325 tons.	34,800 tons.

I am not quite sure of Umfolozi, as there has been some shuffling of cane between them and Empangeni, but I have asked the checker there to write you direct and give the amount of cane up to date. They have not finished yet.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) G. R. MACKAY.

COPY.

Minutes of second meeting appointed by the Umhlatuzi Planters' Association and Empangeni Planters' Association to give evidence before Messrs. Chapman and Maurice Evans. Meeting held at Empangeni Hall, Monday, January 22nd, 1917, at 11 a.m.

Present: Messrs. R. S. Lester (Chairman), S. Salveson, W. J. Perkins, Tidboald, R. A. Taylor and G. W. Higgs.

A message of apology for his unavoidable absence was received from Mr. D. Mellish.

Minutes of previous meeting (January 16th) read and confirmed.

Unanimously agreed to point out to the Natives' Land Committee that the recommendation of each magistrate in this district who gave evidence before Sir Wm. Beaumont's Commission of 1914 was to the effect that the natives were amply provided with land and the Crown Lands should be let out for European occupation.

Resolved unanimously:

1. To lay stress on the fact that the health of Europeans in the district generally was good (Chairman to hold statistics of deaths and births for reference).

2. To show that there is enough land in the native reserve of this district for every native (man, woman and child) to have 11 acres each if the land be equally divided among them. That the average estimated area of land cultivated by each native is less than ¼ acre.

3. To point out that the native-owned cattle in the Lower Umfolozi division number 6,632 head only, *i.e.* there is in the native reserves nearly 31 acres of pasture for each beast owned by all the natives in this magisterial division.

4. To emphasise the remarkable progress of agricultural development under European occupation by the following statistics: In 1911 the area under sugar cane was 6,134 acres; in 1916 the area under sugar cane was 20,733 acres.

During 1916 the number of cattle imported into this magisterial division by Europeans was 1,624 head, and at the end of 1916 the total number owned by Europeans was 6,690 head.

During 1915 the number of fat stock sent for slaughter was 575 head.

Since 1911 75 dipping tanks have been erected.

Total acreage of European occupied land is	94,453 acres.
Total acreage of European occupied land under sugar-cane is	20,733 acres.
Balance for European cattle	73,810 acres.

i.e. 1 European-owned beast per 11 acres.

(*Note.*—European stock-farming only commenced in this district in 1911.)

Total amount of sugar-cane crushed during 1916 in Zululand: 365,325 tons = sugar 34,800 tons, of a value of £25 per ton to the Empire = £870,000.

It was proposed by Mr. Higgs and seconded by Mr. Perkins that the Revd. O. Norgaard of the Biyela Mission be asked to assist the Committee in giving evidence re native interests—carried.

It was resolved to point out that a portion of the Ntambanana lands have been surveyed, have been over-applied for and are not yet allotted. To cite the case of Mr. Wayne as an instance.

Resolved that the Natives' Land Committee be requested to personally inspect the Ntambanana lands and portion of native reserves under the guidance of our Committee.

It was proposed by Mr. Higgs and seconded by Mr. Perkins that the chairman be requested to make arrangements for the provision of two motor cars on the day of the Committee's visit for the purpose of visiting the Ntambanana Valley and reserves, also that the date for final meeting be appointed by the chairman. (Carried).

COPY.

Department of Lands, Pretoria,
22nd December, 1916,

C. W. Dent, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary,
Empangeni and District Farmers' Association,
Empangeni, Zululand.

Sir,—With further reference to my letter to you of the 13th September, 1916, making certain representations in regard to the proposed inclusion of the Ntambanana Valley lands within a native area, it is presumed that you observed the announcement recently made by the Press that a small Commission has been appointed by Government to enquire into certain recommendations made by the Natives' Land Commission in the matter of additional

native areas. Should your Association still desire to submit representations in this matter it is suggested that you should get into touch with the members of this Commission, which can be done through the Chief Native Commissioner, Natal, at Pietermaritzburg.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. R. HUGHES,
Secretary for Lands.

COPY.

"The Firs," Mayville P.O.,
5 October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Dent,—Your favour reached me on Tuesday and I was sorry to see the contents and I do hope your Society is not going to take this matter lying down.

You will note that Colonel Greene and the Hon. J. W. Moor are taking this matter up very strongly and I do hope you are going to give them all the support you can.

Thanking you for all the trouble you have taken.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. H. WAYNE.

COPY.

Department of Lands, Pretoria,
13th September, 1916.

C. W. Dent, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary, Empangeni and District Farmers' Association,
Empangeni, Zululand.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 27th July, 1916, forwarding a letter from Mr. G. H. Wayne making certain representations in regard to the Ntambanana Valley Lands, I have the honour to inform you that these lands have been recommended by the Natives' Land Commission for inclusion within an additional native area.

It is, however, the intention of Col. Mentz to discuss the matter with the Hon. the Minister of Native Affairs, with a view, if possible, to have this land made available for European settlement.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. R. HUGHES,
Secretary for Lands.

COPY.

27th April, 1916.

Private Secretary,
The Hon. the Minister of Lands,
Empangeni Rail.

Sir,—I enclose for the information of the Hon. the Minister of Lands copy of a letter which has been sent to me in my official capacity as Hon. Secretary of the above Association.

I submit that if the facts are as stated (and I have no reason to doubt them) that Mr. Wayne has a genuine grievance against the Government, if the proposal to withdraw from allotment the surveyed farms in the Ntambanana Valley is carried out.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. W. DENT,
Hon. Secretary.

COPY.

"The Firs," Mayville P.O.,
Durban,
24th July, 1916.

Dear Mr. Dent,—Tommy tells me you do not think the Government intend opening up the Intambanana lots. If you think my case would help you in impressing the Minister for Lands during his visit I would be very pleased if you would place it before him,

Two and a half years ago I applied for one of these lots and was told I should have to wait a few months. The few months has lengthened into years and I am still waiting. In the meantime I have put every penny I could lay my hands on to into stock with the hope of one day settling on one of these farms. I have worked early and late at my dairy here to increase my knowledge of stock so as to fit myself for farm life, all in the hope of being able to settle near my people. I have passed over other places with this end in view and now don't you think it would be jolly hard lines if the Government don't open them up. I am willing and able to take up this kind of life, but am debarred from doing because I lack the capital to buy a farm of my own and my only hope is getting a Government farm. I have the stock to start one going and I think the object in giving out Government farms is to entice suitable settlers on to the land, and it would be a great shame if these lands were left lying idle when there are suitable *Colonial born men* ready and willing to take them up.

I have served my King and country in native rebellion and to-day I am suffering from the effects by my partly losing my hearing, which is a great drawback to me in my present occupation.

Hoping I am not putting you to any too much trouble and that you will do your best to get these lots opened up. With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. H. WAYNE.

REPORT OF THE ZULULAND PLANTERS' NATIVES LAND COMMITTEE.

To the Chairman and Executive of the Zululand Planters' Union.

Gentlemen,—

PREFACE.

1. In pursuance of your resolution appointing a Committee to submit a report on the recommendations of the Natives Land Commission, we, the undersigned, beg to report as follows:—

2. The object of your Committee was to inspect personally the new delimited areas, with a view to the extension of the sugar industry. While keeping this object primarily in view, your Committee were not unmindful of the larger aspect of agriculture generally; but they felt themselves in duty bound by their terms of reference to confine their attention as much as possible to this subject.

3. Owing to the season of the year and the difficulty experienced by planters in leaving their farms, it was not easy to form the Committee, and, therefore, some delay was erperienced in starting.

NATIVES LAND COMMISSION REPORT.

4. Before finally meeting at Somkele for the purpose of inspecting the new delimited areas, your Committee studied carefully the report of the Natives Land Commission, Volumes I. and II., and the maps annexed thereto, together with the Minute of Sir William Beaumont addressed to the Minister for Native Affairs.

5. In order to criticise the report itself, it is necessary first to deal with Volume II., containing the evidence on which the report was founded.

6. Your Committee was struck at the outset with the fact that the evidence had been compiled in narrative form, a method which readily lends itself to selective evidence. It is apparent that the evidence given by any articular individual could, by this method, be so summarised as to convey a very misleading impression of that witness's testimony.

7. Briefly, the Commission has recommended that a total of 17,902,692 acres of new land in the Union shall be set aside for the exclusive use of natives. Neither in the terms of reference of the Commissions, nor in the matters referred to the Commission by the Minister for Native Affairs, can your Committee find that there was any necessity for the Commission to apportion any additional land for the use of natives.

It must, therefore, be assumed that the Commission obtained sufficient evidence to show the necessity for the allocation of these new areas. Your Committee submit that this necessity is not borne out by the evidence in Volume II. At the time that the Bill was before the House, the Government expressly stated, in the person of Mr. Sauer, that "It was not the intention to divide the whole country into native and non-native areas." (*Vide* page 224, in evidence given by Mr. T. L. Schreiner.) The Commission has therefore proceeded beyond the intention of the Act as explained by the Minister who introduced the measure.

8. Attention must be directed to the mistakes made in Sir William Beaumont's Minute to the Minister of Native Affairs. In Annexure I., page 25, he says: "The whole of the

Crown lands along the coast belt, and north of the Umhlatuzi River, are highly malarial and much of it is uninhabitable." This was written at a time when Empangeni, Kwambonambi and Umfolozi lands were being settled, and long after the Umhlatuzi lands had been allotted and occupied, and sugar mills were either erected or in course of erection.

Again, a little further on, Sir William Beaumont remarks:—"No doubt the reserves are capable of maintaining a much larger population, but native occupation being what it is, the population fast increasing and future requirements having to be considered, there is little room in them for more than are already there." Surely this is a contradiction in terms? The Minute shows that there are 18 acres for every man, woman and child in the reserves, and it cannot therefore be complained, whatever imaginable standard is taken, that the reserves are overcrowded. Your Committee would, however, direct your attention particularly to the following:—

"(3) The greater part of the Crown lands are malarial, and of little value for European settlement."

"(7) The areas suitable for European settlement have for the most part been taken up."

(*Vide* page 25 of the Minute. Annexure I. Zululand.)

9. The Natives Land Commission visited no lands further north than Empangeni. The procedure seems to have been for the Commission to go straight to the Court House, hear the evidence tendered, and then depart, without having made themselves personally acquainted with the land they condemn. The magistrates of the northern divisions of Zululand were brought south and gave their evidence in the magistrate's office at Empangeni. A perusal of their evidence shows that each of them held a contrary opinion to that expressed by Sir William Beaumont above. The magistrate of the Lower Umfolozi division says (page 459, Vol. II.), speaking of the Crown land below Reserve No. 4:

"It is good sugar land around the lagoon, and there are possibilities for a harbour there. The country above this reserve (No. 6) is Crown land which is excellent grazing land and well watered. It would be good for European occupation. . . . I consider that the natives in this district have quite sufficient land. It is excellent for stock, and you could go for a distance without coming across a kraal sometimes. They have practically picked the eyes out of the country, and what Crown land there is I think should be retained for European occupation. I think that there is sufficient land in the native areas, not only for the present time, but for the future."

The magistrate of the Hhabisa Division says (page 463, Vol. II.):

"Taking the division as a whole, it is sparsely occupied by natives. . . . The Crown land to the north of the district is good general soil, either for general agriculture or for farming. . . . . I think you could grow sugar cane along there near the sea."

The magistrate of the Hlabisa Division says (page 463, Vol. II.):

"The country at the foot of the mountain is exceedingly rich. It is excellent soil for agricultural purposes. I have said in my report that I see no necessity for a further extension of land for natives, and I adhere to that."

The magistrate of the Ingwavuma Division says (page 467, Vol. II.):

"The land between the mountain and the Pongolo River is Crown land, and this land is some of the finest, both for stock and agriculture, I have ever seen. The grass on the slopes of the mountain and Crown land is quite green even now (14th July, 1914), and about two feet high. All the country to the west of the Pongolo is excellent. A large area could be irrigated along the banks of the Pongolo, and lucerne grown there as well as mealies."

In spite of the evidence quoted above, given by officials who had a personal knowledge of their divisions which the Natives Land Commission could not possess, Sir William Beaumont submits to the Minister for Native Affairs that the land "Is of little value for European settlement," and "The areas suitable for European occupation have, for the most part, been taken up."

10. The report itself, apart from being of such a bald nature, reveals several inaccuracies which could have easily been avoided. The tables are badly compiled for our purpose, and your Committee have found it impossible to extract from the report the total area of new land in Zululand proposed to be set aside for natives.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

11. A large part of the lands about to be referred to have been personally inspected by the whole of your Committee, and the remainder by one or more members thereof. Starting from Somkele, the lower Ubombo road passes through rich, gently undulating

ground, dotted with clumps of trees, descending to a belt of thick forest land stretching along the Umyalazi River and the shore of False Bay. On the west, the ground rises in rolling waves to the foothills of the higher land. An extensive tract of fertile country takes a north westerly direction, and, running along the western side of the Ubombo Range, crosses the Umduna, Umsunduzi, and Sekane Rivers, and rolls on to the Umkuzi River.

At Emadulini (known as the Stables), progress northwards is deflected by the south eastern extremity of the Ubombo range. Once round this arm, the country rolls on to the Pongolo Valley, as rich and fertile as anything in Africa. The whole country is intersected by numerous rivers and spruits which wind their way along the depressions.

12. The magistrate of the Hlabisi division gives the rainfall for 1913 as 65 inches, but states that he thinks this is somewhat abnormal. Your Committee is of opinion that the rainfall does not vary materially from that in the settled cane areas of Zululand. At the time of your Committee's inspection, most of the spruits had ceased to run; but this is attributable entirely to the abnormal drought experienced for so long past.

In all cases where the spruits are dried up, water can be obtained with little trouble by digging, and the country inspected is as well watered as the already settled cane areas in Zululand. Along the Pongolo Valley the country is watered by the Pongolo, a large, swift-flowing river, and this country is better watered than the southern area.

13. The health conditions do not differ materially in the southern area (from Somkele to Umkuzi River) to those existing in the settled cane belt in Zululand, and the risk of malaria is no greater than has been successfully overcome in other places. Along the Pongolo the health conditions are not so good, but are not any worse than those experienced at Umfolozi.

POSSIBLE CANE LANDS.

14. From Somkele to the Imhlazane River the soil met with is similar in character to that stretching from Matubatuba to Somkele. North of this river the country completely changes. The sudden change from indifferent soil on the south side to a deep red loam on the north side is very striking. At this river a most remarkable, fertile tract of country starts. Mile after mile, and for an average width of five miles on either side of the lower Ubombo road, this deep red loam stretches in an unbroken expanse.

At a distance of about twelve miles north of the Inhlazane River, this strip of country may fairly be estimated at 15 miles wide, and this width is maintained along the whole course of the Umsenene River until it turns eastward to run into False Bay.

In passing through this magnificent country, all the members of your Committee were amazed at its unbroken consistency. Similar soil is to be found in patches all over the already settled sugar belt of Zululand, and is well known and valued by planters. At Amatikulu, for instance, the largest area is about 14 square miles, and even this is by no means consistent over its whole extent. But north of the Inhlazane, instead of occurring in patches, it spreads unbroken over 300 and possibly 400 square miles, and a plough could be put in at one point and go for miles without meeting with any obstruction.

Your Committee cannot sufficiently impress upon you that this large tract of country is extraordinarily uniform. It is almost literally true that there are no bad patches; there are no shales, no boulders, and no outcrops. The river banks and dongas often reveal a depth of 6 to 15 feet of soil, of equal consistency throughout, and only rarely can rocky bottom be found, even in the beds of the larger rivers.

15. Area No. 1.—The land so far referred to stretches from the Inhlazane River almost due north along both sides of the lower Ubombo road to the southern end of the Ubombo range, the Hluhluwe River and False Bay forming its eastern boundary. This area is computed to be 300 square miles.

16. Area No. 2.—This area commences at Emadulini (The Stables), skirts the western side of the Ubombo range, and runs on to the Umkuzi River. As far as the Umduna River the soil is of a fair average quality; beyond this river the soil is equal to that described in Area No. 1. It is computed to contain upwards of 170 square miles.

17. Area No. 3.—This area also commences at Emadulini, and contains upwards of 175 square miles. For 28 miles, skirting round the south eastern extremity of the Ubombo range, thence north as far as the Umkuzi River, the soil retains its deep red loamy characteristic, already described. East of Ubombo range there is excellent rich alluvial land on the flats, especially between the Umsunduzi River and the Umkuzi River. This soil is a silt, deposited from the two rivers. Thence to the Pongolo River is an area known as the Makatini Flats, a distance of seven miles, where the soil is quite equal to that south of the Umkuzi. The Makatini Flats, however, are somewhat dry.

18. Area No. 4.—This area contains the Pongolo Valley, and is well described by the magistrate of the Ingwavuma division in his evidence before the Commission, which has already been quoted. Nothing further need be added to that. It is computed at 370 square miles.

19. Area No. 5.—This area is contained in the Hluhluhe River basin, and is about 75 square miles in extent. The soil is a rich red and a black loam, excellent for the cultivation of sugar cane.

20. Area No. 6.—This area is known as the Ntambanana Valley lands, of which 90,000 acres were, previous to the submission of the Commission's report, advertised for European occupation. This land is excellent for general farming.

21. In concluding this brief survey of the available sugar lands, your Committee would again emphasise the extraordinary richness and uniformity of the areas north of Somkele. In no other part of Zululand does this continuous stretch of rich red loam occur.

All the members of your Committee are planters, and are well acquainted with the country now devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane; but it is hard to convey to you the astonishment which this great stretch of country caused to each and all of them. To-day this land is lying practically valueless. A few kraals, of three or four huts each, often miles apart, and, rarely, a small herd of cattle, are to be seen. Not one acre to the square mile is cultivated, and the land is in practically the same condition as it was centuries ago.

22. The total extent of the above described five areas, north of Somkele (*i.e* excluding Area No. 6) is 739,200 acres, most of which is more suited to the cultivation of sugar cane than a great deal of the land already planted. With the exception of about 44,800 acres north of the Inhlazane, situated in Reserve No. 3, all is included in the new area proposed by the natives Land Commission to be set aside for natives. The area of good sugar land is no doubt larger than is contained in the five areas reported upon, but your Committee have felt it advisable to speak only of the land the fertility of which is unquestionable.

23. As the uniformity of the soil throughout every acre reduces to a minimum any speculation regarding the probable yield of cane, it is easy to arrive at the amount of sugar which the Union is in danger of losing should the recommendations of the Natives Land Commission be adopted.

24. Allowing one-third of this 739,200 acres for the sites of homesteads and the grazing of stock—a liberal allowance—492,800 acres remain for the cultivation of cane. Assuming that this cane is cut every two years—a longer period than is necessary in Zululand—the total annual production of sugar at 2 tons per acre would be half a million tons. Two tons per acre is a conservative estimate. In other words, this magnificent stretch of country, sparsely inhabited and infested with game, and to the north with nagana, can easily be made to produce an annual wealth to the Union, at the present refineries price of sugar of 22s. per 100 lb., of £11,000,000.

25. In direct taxation, the exchequer of the Union would receive, by the excise on sugar, a sum of £500,000 per annum; while, by indirect taxation, a further enormous revenue would be obtained.

26. The settlement of this land would require, on 500 acre farms, 1,500 European settlers with their families. To manufacture the sugar, at least thirty large mills would be required. These mills, and the stores necessary for such a population, would need just as large a number of tradesmen as planters.

27. Your Committee would point out that there is not the slightest exaggeration in any of these statements, and the facts can be easily verified. Each member of your Committee, being a planter himself, and having a knowledge of the best sugar lands, has endeavoured to err on the conservative side. Large as these figures may appear, they are calculated on a minimum basis. Your Committee are satisfied of their moderation, both as to the amount of land available and as to the possible sugar production. They would welcome any expert investigation, and they are confident that they could easily convince, on the spot, any agricultural authority, that there is no exaggeration in the figures given.

28. To accomplish this settlement, 185 miles of railway extension, through easy country, is necessary, the cost of which would be entirely covered by one year's excise on the sugar produced.

29. This production can be made an accomplished fact within the space of the next ten years, if the Government will take this matter seriously. Your Committee would appeal to every intelligent citizen of South Africa to consider whether it is better to allow the country to remain in its present primitive condition—which surely will be the case, if the Natives Land Commission's report be adopted—or to pursue energetically the natural development of the country, to the material benefit of every white and black inhabitant.

30. In conclusion of this report, your Committee wish to disclaim any political motives whatsoever. They desire only to point out the danger of allowing an asset, equal in importance to that of the Witwatersrand itself, to be thrown away. They respectfully submit that a clear case for immediate investigation by the Government has been established.

G. HEATON NICHOLLS.
FRANK ARDINGTON.
REG. A. TAYLOR.
G. W. HIGGS.
J. A. KIRKWOOD.

January 18th, 1917.

[U.G. 35—'18.]

Report of Evidence taken at Somkele on April 16th, 1917.

Mr. E. T. HARRISON (representing the Umfolozi Farmers' Association).] I am a sugar-planter and dipping supervisor. I have been a resident of Zululand for the past seven years, and know the country pretty well, especially the Lower Umfolozi and Hlabisa Districts. In my opinion, I think the natives have sufficient land, *i.e.* native reserves, and I do not see any reason why they should be given any further land, as at present they are not able to cultivate the land they occupy. They do not make use of the land they have got at present. They have reached a state where they do not rely so much upon native women for cultivation, as they did formerly. They prefer to go out and work and buy their food.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I know the area recommended well. I have been all over the place and hunted over every inch of the ground. Towards the Hluhluwe is very good for cane—some of the finest cane land there is. From right across the Hluhluwe, right away to the foothills, is good cane land. Lower down it is a bit sandy. I am alluding more particularly to the vicinity round the Stables and at the bottom of Makowe; the Makowe Flats are very good cane land. The country towards the Mduna is very good, also towards the Mkuzi is flat and good land, but it is covered with thorns. I am referring only to the Lower Umfolozi and Hlabisa Divisions.

By Mr. Evans] Yes native cattle will increase, but even so I think there is sufficient land to cope with the increase and even although they cultivate much more and in a better manner; I refer to the land you have seen in the Lower Umfolozi and Hlabisa Divisions. The land from the Stables towards the sea is sandy and would be suitable for cattle. The grass there is more of a coast grass. Nagana exists in the upper portions and malaria is fairly bad, but it is not worse than it is at the Umfolozi. The last two years the rainfall has been very scarce. The rainfall is inclined to be more towards the sea, on account of the bush. In parts water is scarce, except in the neighbourhood of streams; many of the smaller ones are dry.

By Mr. Chapman.] All the coast belt—Crown lands and native reserves—is very sparsely populated. I dip 1,300 head of cattle at Somkele, about 600 at Hluhluwe. Cattle here come long distances in some cases. 500 are dipped at Hlazana, 300 at Nyalazi, 500 at Nsane, and 96 at Umfolozi. Within the last twelve months cattle have increased by 1,000 head at my six tanks. The last case of East Coast fever was at Nsane about 15 months ago.

Report of Evidence taken at Umfolozi, Zululand, on 16th April, 1917, during the forenoon.

The meeting was sparsely attended, no one having been appointed as a delegate from the local Association, but Mr. J. KIRKWOOD (a member of the "People's Commission) elected to give evidence as follows: I was one of the members who went up to visit the areas recently. I have been acquainted with Zululand for many years. I have been all over on shooting trips. On this last trip we went from Somkele to Hluhluwe and from there we looked away to the east on horseback. We then went to the Stables and from there we went to the foothills of the Ubombo; we went all round on horseback. Then we returned to Somkele. I had a knowledge of the country further north and so had Mr. Higgs. The land between the Umsunduzi and the Sekane is very good—in some parts patchy, but it is good soil.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is fairly good country; you might call it second-class. There is a lot of bush. I refer to the big area between the Umsunduzi and the Ubombo. I do not think it is worse for water than it is down here. There are very, very few natives there. There are a few kraals on the flats, but there are practically none. It is no worse for fever than this place (Umfolozi). There is a good bit of flat towards the Stables. I do not know the country on the low coast road. The land after we crossed the Hluhluwe is very good.

By Mr. Evans.] The land near the rubber plantation (Nxwala Hill) is very good. The land between the Mkuzi and the Umsoma is fairly good. It is dry; it might be dryer than on the west. I have been right along to the Portuguese boundary. The further up you go the better the land gets. The strip along the Pongolo is absolutely first-class land.

By Mr. Chapman.] The strip is very broad on the right hand side; on the west there might be a mile. The strip on the west would run three miles from the river; further in it is fairly good. It is pretty dry further in, but by sinking you could get water. It is dense bushy country. I believe it is neglect that leads to blackwater fever; I have never heard of it contracted there. I do not know the rainfall in that part. It

is as well watered as this country. I think the rainfall is about the same as east of the Pongolo.

By Mr. Evans.] The occupation by natives in the Pongola area is very, very poor.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I think the land between the Mduna and Sekane would be taken up and farmed if there was a railway. It would grow sugar and mealies. It would do well for cattle. A man could not very well make a living unless there was a railway there.

Mr. Kirkwood was the only person who volunteered to give evidence at Umfolozi.

Evidence taken at Ubombo, Zululand, on 20th April, 1917.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON (Acting Magistrate, Ubombo Division).] I am at present Acting Magistrate of this Division and have been here about 17 years. I estimate the area north of the Mkuzi and bounded by Reserve 14 and the Pongolo, *i.e.* coloured pink on map, to be about 300,000 acres. I base it on the fact that I know the Reserve is about 300,000 and I think the area indicated is about the same size. As regards the Pongolo Valley, you cannot call it a valley because there are no hills; it is more or less a river running through flat country. Within 4 or 4½ miles, starting from Reserve 15, to Tete Pan is hard ground. From about 5 miles out it starts getting sandy. I say approximately, because it is impossible to measure the country with the eye. In the southern part the sand is reddish; northwards it becomes whitish. There are no natives about Makatini; there are some towards the Mkuzi. On the western bank of the river it is harder and it differs from this side of the river: it is more open. It is hard soil; lower down it gets softer, but still harder than it is on the other side. Going further north, the soil gets gradually softer. The ridges on the western side of the river run down to about the line of the reserve; they gradually disappear in gentle undulations.

By Mr. Evans.] There is a lot of mealie planting in some parts on the Ingwavuma side. It is very fertile on the Ubombo side. I should say it is more fertile towards the river because there is silt there. Down about the Ingwavuma River the Pongolo is very narrow, and when the river comes down it spreads over the surrounding country. You may say the pans are fed from the overflow, which might extend 800 yards. The valley is regarded as a good grain country when it rains; this season they have none. In good seasons they grow abnormal crops—better than the ordinary. I have no records as to the rainfall on the river, but we have a haphazard record of the rainfall here. The natives cannot depend on the seasons. The last three seasons have been bad; the fifth year was an ordinary year, the fourth was lower than ordinary.

By Mr. Chapman.] The conditions as to health are bad, *i.e.* fever. There is no record of births or deaths in Zululand. You will find very few old men. I should say the population is about the same as when I came here. We regard all the Pongolo Valley as a bad fever place. The kraals spread right along the river towards the Tete Pan. There are a fairish number, but it is a very sparsely-inhabited country. They get sufficient crops to carry them through, otherwise they would not be there. The Crown land area has only been approximately surveyed. The sandy country towards the east is almost entirely uninhabited, except three or four small kraals in the southern part; just on the boundary (northern) there are quite a number of kraals. There is periodical water there, dependent on the rains. By boring I have no doubt you could get good water, provided you went to the expense.

By Mr. Evans.] Health conditions are better generally in the sandy country than in the valley, provided they are away from the pans. They get average crops of mealies; they grow cassava, monkey nuts and, in parts, sugar cane and bananas. Yes, if water could be found there in sufficient quantity I think low country natives would go there, but not the hill natives. On the eastern side of the Pongolo it is more heavily bushed than on the Western. The bush is in very thick patches. There is a great area taken up by the Palm, which extends into the Crown lands. I should say the rainfall would apply almost to the whole area: if it is bad in the river it is bad further east, except at Nseleni, which is in the reserve.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is hot country.

Referring to the portion of Crown lands due east of Reserve 13, south of Reserve 14, and bounded by the Mkuzi River and Mbazwana Swamp: I should say the part east of Mosi is the best part. The people rely on their gardens all along the swamp in times of drought. It is heavily bushed with plenty of trees all along the river. There are swamps and pans there. It is hard soil. Health conditions there are bad—the same as along the Pongolo. I should say the drought is not so bad there as in the first area described. Down by the river the soil is rich silt. Northwards it becomes palm and sandy country.

Referring to remainder of recommended area in the Ubombo Division, south of the Umkuzi and bounded by the Munywana: There are very stoney and rough portions in above. There is good soil towards Mkuzi River (drift). Towards the Msunduzi it is more open, with big trees. By the foothills of Reserve 2 it is stony. Towards the Mkuzi it is heavily bushed. There are no gardens in the main portion, which is the Game Reserve, and it is similar to the country in the Sekane Flats. The Rubber Company had 5,000 acres in that area.

By Mr. Chapman.] If you go by the game guards, there are natives in the bend of the Mkuzi. The boundary of Reserve No. 2 is right on top of the hill. There is nagana in the reserve in three places. I think if the Game Reserve were abolished there would be no nagana there. I have made application to have a "buffer" zone round each native reserve. In Reserve 13 the natives cannot keep a beast on account of nagana. This area is a dry part of the country.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I agree—the rainfall at Ubombo might be entirely different from what it is on the flats. Here we get drizzling rains. They get more reliable crops closer to the sea—say a strip of four miles inwards gets a heavier rainfall than further inwards. The water in the Mseleni and Mbazwana is beautifully clear; further inland the water gets brackish.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, there is a lot of game in the Pongolo Valley. They have no cattle in Reserve 13; they cannot keep them. There is very little nagana on the western side. The approximate area of Ubombo district is 1,500 square miles. The approximate area of native reserves, as delimited by Sir Charles Saunders, is 700 square miles. The approximate area recommended by the Lands Commission is 1,475 square miles. The native population is, approximately, as under: Reserve 1, 1,546; Reserve 2, 1,505; Reserve 13, 1,150; Reserve 14 (part), 11,650; Reserve 16 (part), 1,850; Reserve 15, 276; making a total of about 18,000. I reckon the population as 3½ souls per hut. I think this is pretty accurate from past experience. I think the native population is increasing. In 1892 the hut tax was less than at present.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, on top of the hill (part of Reserve 16) I should say it is thickly populated, also in the southern portion of Reserve 14, where we reckon two-thirds of our population live. They pay just the same on Crown lands as in reserves. If the hut tax on Crown lands was increased I think they would go into reserves. As regards nagana, I put in this letter from Mr. C. F. Adams. Mr. Robertson also spoke of the danger of sleeping sickness and the need for reserve areas if it broke out in Zululand and the population had to be deported. As regards the Hluhluwe Game Reserve, there are hills breaking all round from the west and smaller hills on the east. In certain parts it is heavily bushed, *i.e.* densely. I think the herd of cattle mentioned must be right in the high ground, which would account for their comparative immunity from nagana.

Copy of letter from Mr. C. Adams—put in by Mr. Robertson.

Eshowe, April 5th, 1917.

Dear Mr. Robertson,—At the moment I forget whether I wrote you on the questions you asked me about nagana, for the reason that I have received a reply to my note thereon, from Mr. Taylor at Empangeni, and he writes:

"You are correct enough. Each one of us thought that game drives were to be organised and that the end of nagana was in sight. The magistrates were to have full power. Such was the impression we all got from the Administrator. But since then the other unfortunate influence seems to have re-asserted itself and crept out from its hiding place, for we were forbidden game drives."

You are therefore at liberty to use our names—Messrs. Taylor's, Higgs' and mine—(officially if you wish) and hope you may derive the necessary assistance therefrom.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) CHAS. F. ADAMS.

Statistics furnished by Mr. Robertson in a minute dated 24th April, 1917.

Estimated population in Reserve 15: 1914, 383; 1915, 402 (21 new-comers); 1916, 423 (24 new-comers). Estimated population on Crown lands—5,000. Rainfall statistics (recorded at Ubombo magistracy): 1911, 32½ inches; 1912, 21½ inches; 1913, no record; 1914 34½ inches; 1915, 47½ inches; 1916, no record; 1917, January, 4½ inches; February, 3½ inches March, 4½ inches.

Report of Evidence taken at Ndumo, Ingwavuma Division, on 24th April, 1917.

Mr. E. W. BAXTER, Magistrate, Ingwavuma Division, replying to Mr. Evans' enquiries, states: In Reserve 16 we have, according to last Hut Tax returns, 848 kraals, with 3,054 huts; multiply by 3½ and there are approximately 11,000 natives there. On Crown lands we have: On the western bank of the Pongolo there are 452 kraals, with 1,473 huts; population approximately 6,000. On the eastern side of the Pongolo the number of kraals is 137; number of huts 432; population approximately 1,300. Reserve 14 there are 1,076 kraals, with 3,168 huts; population approximately about 12,000 natives. I have not had much opportunity of seeing the country yet, and have not been on the other side (Ndumo is on western side) of the Pongolo. I only know the area in which the Rubber Company operate from hearsay. Their concessions extended on the eastern side of the Pongolo, and their headquarters were at the Mengu Pan. They had rights for collecting over a big area. Fever has been pretty bad on the Pongolo, but I understand it is not so bad now. Deaths are not reported now, and the natives are very vague as to the cause of death.

By Mr. Chapman.] My experience is that the natives do not show very much sign of fever, as a rule. In wet seasons fever is far worse. The natives in this division are increasing. We reckon that within the last three years there has been an increase of between two and three thousand. It is very difficult to give anything like a correct estimate, because we keep no record of births and deaths, and we can only go on hut tax collections. The only Europeans in this area are Mr. Von Wissell and family; there is nobody else.

Mr. J. LEHMANN, storekeeper and farmer (a member of the firm of Wissell & Finetti).] I have been 17 years in South Africa and 12 here. Yes, I have walked the district from Delagoa Bay to Ubombo Drift on both banks of the Pongolo, and also down to Manaba and elsewhere. If you take the eastern side it is sand right up to the bank of the river. In places—like Tete Pan—you have an alluvial deposit right up to the river. The sand extends right through the country as far as Madonela's; beyond that it is red soil.

By Mr. Chapman.] It is practically all sand, as shown in the bank of the river. On this side there are large deposits.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the large fig trees grow on this side near the river. The vegetation is much the same on each side. For about 12 miles you have sand dunes 100 to 150 feet high. The vegetation on the dunes is fairly good; they are all grass covered, and in winter time when it is burned off there is nothing but sand and trees and shrubs. The sand continues right to the coast and to Inyack Island in Delagoa Bay.

By Mr. Chapman.] No, in normal seasons, when there is rain, the mealies are very poor. The difference between the two banks is as light to darkness, as between night and day. Exactly the same thing applies to the Mkuzi—on one side of the Mkuzi you have good soil, but the minute you cross you get into sand. On the south side of the Mkuzi you have good soil; on the other side, sand to the Pongolo. There are vast patches where nobody is living. The good area north of the Mkuzi is not one-half per cent. of the whole district. I think most of the pan soil is sour land; you could not do anything with it. Applications have been made for land here but have been refused. I took my farm with the idea of planting cane and having a mill here, but I have only 2,000 acres, which would not warrant a mill. The Land Board promised me they would come up in winter time and then throw open the land, but they never came up. Applications were made for land on the western side of the Pongolo. There was 25 feet of water in the Pongolo after heavy rains up-country, but there was very shallow water in the Ingwavuma at the same time—only about 6 inches. Part of the land would have to be irrigated from the Ingwavuma. There is sufficient fall to dam up the Pongolo and bring the water out on the flats. Where you have pans it is brackish water; all the pans on both sides contain brackish water. The natives could cultivate the pans, but the great trouble is destruction by hippos.

By Mr. Evans.] No, I have not sufficient confidence in the rainfall. The total rainfall would be sufficient for mealie growing, but it is unreliable and the mealies would often get scorched up. The uneven distribution of the rainfall on the one hand and the intense heat on the other would render mealie growing at 10s. a bag impracticable. With irrigation you could easily get two crops a year. The climate itself is favourable; it is the lack of water which is the trouble. If applications were made by others for land it was my intention to get a mill put up. The Rubber Company did not attempt cultivation; they did a bit of growing, but it was a failure.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, I had 20 acres of cane in as an experiment. We cut it off and weighed it carefully and it averaged 60 tons to the acre. It was well cultivated and looked after; the land was well ploughed. The good land goes right up to the boundary; it is a dark alluvial soil—very good. The big vlei which you saw opposite the Mengu

and Tete Pans is of similar formation and contains good soil. The hills are no use. All the vleis have their natural channels in the middle; both banks are heavy alluvial soil. As regards irrigation, I think it would be better to pump water out. There is good land and good water which could be brought on to the land at a small expenditure. It is like solid gold; you bring the water on to the soil and you bring in so many pounds per acre. The water is as valuable as the gold taken from the mines. You have here the climate, the soil, and the water which can be brought on to the soil at a small expenditure in certain areas on the western side of the Pongolo.

By Mr. Evans.] As soon as you leave the Pongolo along the main road to Ingwavuma I think it is all poor soil. It would grow good crops with rain. Henderson, the Public Works man, passed through in winter and said he had seen poor country but never any as poor as that. The grass is good if you have the rain, otherwise starvation.

By Mr. Chapman.] If I was offered the whole of the eastern bank of the Pongolo I would not have it. I think the block of soil meant is from Butuntu's to Portuguese territory, but it would cost a fortune to irrigate it and work it. There may be small blocks on the eastern side, but not any quantity. The Amalgamated Rubber Corporation got an expert on tropical agriculture from England to report on it and he said: "I have tramped the whole country from end to end. I have been over two-thirds of the area (meaning the eastern side of the Pongolo) and I would not give you a penny for the whole lot." That applied to the Pongolo eastern bank as far as the Tete Pan. He walked right across to Manguzi. I have been living here for 12 years. I have three children; they are all healthy. I do not say there is no fever; there is plenty of it, but you must live carefully. Two of my children and my wife have had fever, but we have travelled about a lot. I personally think amongst natives it is a question of the survival of the fittest; the weakest go under and die as babies. Even under normal conditions there is a big mortality.

By Mr. Evans.] Yes, I think the natives are quite satisfied to live in this locality, notwithstanding the drawbacks. There is no dissatisfaction on their part with regard to the conditions.

By Mr. Chapman.] There is no nagana, as far as I know, on the western bank of the Pongolo. There was once a story about nagana on top of the hill, but I think the slides were mixed up.

By Mr. Evans.] East Coast fever has wiped them out. In 20 years' time, if you come back again, you will see thousands of head of cattle here in the Pongolo Valley, where they never get thin. Once our cattle were isolated on the ridge this side of the Ingwavuma for a long time, but they never got thin. I am quite sure the cattle will always do well here.

By Mr. Chapman.] The grazing in the sand is not so bad; it is a good cattle country. I am only condemning it from an agricultural point of view.

Mr. Evans.] No, you could not closely stock it, perhaps, but I mean it is not so bad as in the Free State and the Transvaal, where everything is swept off in the winter.

By Mr. Chapman.] Yes, the cattle will keep their condition here. The country is never really bare.

By Mr. Evans.] There is a different limit to the number you can stock as to what there is in the Free State or the Transvaal, for instance. East Coast fever has killed thousands of cattle, I should say. Before rinderpest this country was absolutely swarming with cattle. My partner, Wissell, was here long before me and there was no kraal in which they did not have cattle then. You cannot expect to see many cattle when we have had East Coast fever for 15 years. As far as I know there is only the river where there is water; in the east there are water holes in the sand. Wherever you dig you find water —I think sufficient for domestic purposes and cattle. At Manaba we dug less than 20 feet; we had splendid water. At Tete, three miles away from the river on a hill, they dug and got good water. At Tanga, where it is all sand and dry, I have a store; there is water there in a hole and it is quite all right.

By Mr. Chapman.] Fever would never deter people from taking up land. There must be a chance that they get water. If farms were cut up they would be taken up like a shot. I am speaking now that there were means of transportation.

By Mr. Chapman.] In normal seasons water transport would be practicable, but in dry seasons it would be difficult.

By Mr. Evans.] I am sure dipping tanks could be provided with water by digging if proper wells were sunk, but on the western side there is only the Pongolo for an absolutely certain supply and all dipping tanks would have to be within easy distance of the river. I see no reason why natives should not continue to increase in the Pongolo area. With a farm here you must make a bigger income than you would in Natal. I mean the land is good enough to give a bigger return, being further north and hotter. I should say you would do better, provided you got the water on.

By Mr. Chapman.] There has been no attempt, to my knowledge, to find water by well-sinking in this part.

By Mr. Evans.] The sand would be probably 20 feet in some parts before you come to the calcareous formation. What I have seen was loose porous soil.

Report of Evidence taken at Manguzi, Tongaland (Division of Ingwavuma) on 27th April, 1917.

Mr. B. C. HARRISON, J.P.] I have been here in this locality for about 15 years; first as Stock Inspector of the Division and for the last seven years or so as storekeeper. I know the junction of the Usutu and Pongolo Rivers; for a few years I frequently went down the river as far as the Ubombo Drift. I do not think the country is as good on this side of the Pongolo as it is on the western side. I think you would get into sandy country inland further east; from Tete Pan downwards is heavier land. Towards the Ubombo Drift—from Madonela's down it becomes better land. From Tete Pan inwards here is pretty poor soil. I do not think you can compare that (the eastern side) with the western side. I do not think it is of much use for agricultural purposes. Of course, close to the river it is better. There are patches of quite good land on this side, but it gets flooded. The country north of Sokunti Pan is heavier, but is flooded once or twice a year by the Pongolo. I should say cotton would do well there, but it is most unhealthy and sour land. The natives live close to the river because it is the only place where they can get water. I think you would get water in many places. I heard that the Rubber Company at Tete Pan got beautiful water by boring on top of a ridge, and I think the same might apply further east. The Portuguese do a lot for the natives in their country in the way of boring for water and have been successful in that way. The formation is just the same in the Portuguese territory. I do think you could get water by boring in this part—say going down 20 or 30 feet. I should say the Crown lands east of the Pongolo would be good for grazing, but you might get tsetse south of the Tete Pan. The natives have quite a good number of cattle on the east side of the river, but not many in the pink area. I think the native cattle could be increased if they could get water by boring. They are compelled to build on the banks of swamps at present. Yes, I think the natives are increasing at a tremendous rate in Tongaland—I mean natural increase. They get married whilst very young. A few come across from Portuguese territory. A large number of natives from this district go to Johannesburg to work. I think there is a bigger death rate in Portuguese territory, due to the drinking; this even extends to the children. On this side there is only "ubusulo" (palm wine), upon which they live in a famine year. I think it is really this which saves them in hard times. They do not try to make liquor of it; it is collected every morning and evening. I think it is sustaining. Of course, in famine years they get a lot of wild fruits. Reserve 14 in Ingwavuma Division is not thickly populated, due to the scarcity of water. I think it would carry thousands more if this difficulty could be overcome. Many of Ngwanasa's people have come in here, but there is a lot of difficulty in the formality of obtaining permission. He has a lot of natives on the other side (Portuguese country). I understand there is no pass or permission required to move into Portuguese territory. I have known a few natives move down from further north. I have heard of four who came down from Nyasaland. Cattle do very well here, but they do better in the "ilala" (palm) country. There is sweeter grass there. Natives tap the "ilala" all through the year, but they never seem to get less. The natives are very keen on a Government school here. The missionaries up here at present do very little in that way. There are very few "Amakolwa" (Christian natives) here. The raw natives want a school. They reckon they do not get sufficient teaching at the mission schools. They would like to have it compulsory, as in Portuguese country. I think the Tongas are much smarter than the Zulus. They very seldom work on the mines in Johannesburg; they go as office boys, cooks, house boys, etc. They have many kinds of food; they cultivate the "Inhlubu" bean. They are very fond of chicken curries—you could not buy a fowl her for love or money. They buy many well-bred young cockerels from me to improve their own fowls. They are keen enough to go in improvements; they have bananas, guavas, papaws, peaches, grenadillas and pineapples. They are very keen on getting the seed of anything new. The Portuguese go in for improving native cattle. They have good bulls at Bella Vista, to which natives have to send their cows. They make no charge for this.

Statistics showing monthly rainfall at Manguzi during the period April, 1914, to March, 1917, are attached.

Statistics of Rainfall at Manguzi, Amatongaland.

	1914–1915.	1915–1916.	1916–1917.
April, 1914	3.36	2.72	2.66
May	5.58	2.59	1.42
June	Nil.	0.23	0.65
July	Nil.	3.66	Nil.
August	1.16	0.93	0.39
September	Nil.	1.67	Nil.
October...	1.12	4.93	2.16
November	1.95	2.44	2.64
December	6.32	4.35	2.60
January, 1915	16·90	2.77	2.21
February	7.47	2.22	5.05
March	·65	13.17	6.01
For the twelve months	44.51 inches.	41.65 inches.	25.72 inches.

Copy of Evidence (notes taken by Mr. M. Evans) furnished at Nongoma on 5th May by Mr. O. Fynney, magistrate of Ndwande division and previously for many years magistrate of Ubombo division.

Mr. FYNNEY, Nongoma, speaking of the east bank of the Pongolo River said that the sandy soil we saw ceases a little south of the Mengu Pan and there are mimosa thorns and "Nsinde" grass growing on firm soil of chocolate colour, with sandy patches of reddish soil. This is the character of the country for some three miles back from the river; beyond this is sand, heavily timbered for another three miles, and then "ilala" palm sandy country, and then again a bush country also in sand. The three mile strip on the river referred to above continues south of the Pongolo Drift. I made a report on the Pongolo River for the Natal Government in 1909, a copy of which is in the office at the Ubombo magistracy and also in the office of the Colonial Secretary of Natal. The health conditions of the Pongolo River are about as bad as they could be anywhere. There are a good many natives on the river, but they suffer from fever. I cannot speak of the rainfall along the Pongolo, but Forester Baldwin has kept records and they are in the records of that Department. Running south-east from Reserve 15 to Reserve 13 are a number of ridges of sand, well bushed. The whole of the country east of the River Pongolo in the sand country is waterless until the Mosi Swamp is reached. The Makatini Flats lie south-west of the Reserve 15 and extend half-way between the Umkuzi and Pongolo Rivers. On them there is black soil of a great depth with limestone pebbles. My opinion of this is that this soil will not grow anything. I judge this from its general appearance; in summer it is a sponge in make—all cracked. This soil is in the portion nearest the foothills of the Ubombo. Further on the flats there is a chocolate soil; the growth of grass is not high, but I consider this soil rich. The rainfall is uncertain; at times the ground is bare, but rain brings on the grass quickly. The western portion of Crown lands lying along the foothills of the Ubombo and the adjoining portion of Reserve 16 from the drift to the Mlambongwenya is magnificent stock country. South and east of the Umkuzi River and north of the Umsoma River, east of Reserve 2 is provisionally a game reserve. The Umsoma River is really a pan, otherwise this piece of country is waterless. The eastern portion of this area is a thornless and poor portion; the remainder is good land. The Amatongaland Rubber Syndicate at the Ingxwala Hill kept a record of the rainfall at their place and this should be some indication of the rainfall of this area. The nameless river shown on the map as running through the middle of this area does not exist as far as I know. In so far as the country west of Reserve No. 2 and through which the Sekane and Umsunduzi Rivers run, the description of the Makatini Flats applies. There is the hungry black soil, and also the portion between the Umduna and Umsundusi is hopeless.

Evidence taken at Nongoma, Zululand, on 6th May, 1917.

Present: Mr. T. E. Chapman and the Secretary.

Trpr. WILLIAM BLAIR, S.A.M.R.] I am in charge of the Police Station at Ngomi. The farms of which I have described conditions as regards occupation come within my area. The country is fairly malarial; it is very broken, with very little flat ground. It is more of a cattle country than agricultural, except more especially in the north-eastern portion. A few of the farms are used for winter grazing, but nothing like all. There are some good parts for sheep, especially round the Ngomi. Thousands come down in the winter. Taken as a whole, the farms are well occupied by natives. On occupied farms they are mostly labour tenants. I cannot say definitely whether they pay rent. There are no European cattle on the unoccupied farms. Natives have a fair number of cattle. The land is quite suitable for natives. With a good rainfall they get good crops. All the higher portion is healthy. There is malaria towards the Mkuzi. There is plenty of room for more natives. Most of the absentee landlords or owners live in the Transvaal and Free State as far as I know. I have been at Ngomi about 9 months.

Report of Evidence taken at Nkandhla, Zululand, in the Magistrate's Court Room, on 12th May, 1917, from 2 p.m. onwards.

Present: Mr. Chapman and the Secretary.

Mr. Chapman addressed the meeting in the usual manner and explained the reason for the absence of his colleague, Mr. M. S. Evans.

Mr. W. CALVERLEY.] In opening I am rather in a predicament in regard to this Act, because I am not well acquainted with its provisions. I would like to know from you, Mr. Chapman, as to how this is going to work—this native area—and how it will affect us as farmers or holders in that area.

Mr. Chapman made the necessary explanation, which was interpreted into Dutch by Mr. Wagenaar.

Mr. Calverley (continuing).] It leaves me, as far as I am concerned, with no actual point of complaint in regard to myself, but if I am to speak in regard to the farmers on this side of the Insuzi: if the Government are prepared to take over the farms that natives will go into, if you are prepared to purchase the farms, then there is a way out of it, but it comes very hard to men who have taken up those allotments by the invitation of the Government and laid out considerable money under very hard circumstances and decided to reside there thinking that development would go ahead in time—it is hard to find themselves now in the centre of a native area and be told that they must either sell to a native or they are compelled to offer to the Government. There is, as I say, a way out, because if a native is not there to buy the land the Government will come to the rescue. (Various provisions of the Bill are here explained to the assembly). As far as the Act is concerned, I might say this: in my simple opinion, as regards Zululand, we do not require to put these few farms into native areas but, honestly, what might be required is to put a few more white people amongst the natives. That has been my experience: that the closer and tighter the native sticks to the white man, the better he can get on in many cases. I have had experience of natives living on farms and natives living on locations: the people in locations have been practically next door to starving when the native living on the farm is independent as far as food is concerned for his children. Instead of the Government isolating two or three white men amongst hordes of natives I think it should be the other way on. It has come very hard for the few Europeans in this district to find themselves left alone amongst the natives—to civilize or train them. It would be far different if it had been possible for the Government to have laid out these areas in a different way. As far as I can see, they are pieces of land here and there they do not lie in strips—I mean those recommended areas. It would have been far better—if they found they had to have this land—that the natives would hold a strip of land and the Europeans a strip of land. We could then command a far stronger hold over the natives. If it was situated as my fingers: a native block, then a European block, and so on. The whole of the Nkandhla is, I think, composed of 41 farms and about 38 or 39 farms have been taken up. Well, after all is said and done, our little trouble is very small in comparison with others who are in the Union, because it would not take much for the Government to take over the whole of those farms and leave the white man clean out of the native area altogether, because as far as I can see the feeling is such amongst the farmers. I do think that expropriation by the Government and compensation on a fair valuation would be the simplest and best way out of the difficulty, otherwise I think there would be very much dissatisfaction and we would prefer it to remain as a European area. There are certainly a few farms amongst these 40 which you will notice yourself have been improved and there are others which have been very little improved. The times have been too hard for the farmers; what with tick fever restrictions and one thing and another they found it very hard to improve. The farms were allotted from 1906, I think—just after the rebellion. Many of the farms are quite capable of giving a good living, but some of them are badly situated in regard to position and the lands are very limited for cultivation—you do not get in large strips of land where you can cultivate from 30 to 50 acres in a block, and then it is a hard thing to transport your stuff out of these places, although the ground is fairly good. Again, on these stock farms the country is all good for cattle, but not for merino sheep. I have no doubt that men who have capital on sheep farms could do well. Sheep do well at Qudeni, but when winter comes on you must shift them for winter feeding. They do not grow winter food on the Qudeni: they experimented last year—turnips—but they did not do too well. Men on the top hire farms on these levels and their sheep come down in May. The average size of the farms is about 1,600 acres. I do not think that I have anything further to bring forward.

Mr. IZAAK VAN DER SCHYFF (interpreted).] We are very glad to see Mr. Chapman here and we would like to put a few questions to him, if he is willing to answer. (This was done.). I would be very glad if Mr. Chapman would try and make a line to be a boundary between the black races and the white; I would like to see the natives on one side of the line and the whites on the other. I hope you will do your best for us, because I think you are of the same view and you would rather look on a white face than on a black; therefore I hope you will do your best to divide the two races so that there will not be a mixture, and duly record my view when you come to make your report.

Mr. F. N. FOUCHE (interpreted).] From the year 1837 we have lived as at present; if they cannot make a definite boundary between the two races it is better to leave it as it is now. We have taken up the ground here—these farms from the Government; we are old now and came a long time ago in the country. We have children, and we

have worked the ground so far that it is good enough for farming. Under civilization, as Christians, we have brought it as far as this, and if we are shifted out here by the Government for less than we have suffered for the land it will be a very hard thing to us. My wish in this matter is in accordance with what General Botha said in my presence: to form a boundary between the two races—the natives to be on one side and the white population on the other side—and to put a standing army of about 500 men on the boundary, to take action in case of any unrest happening. (Mr. Chapman explained that apparently General Botha's views have changed since then, as he has been instrumental in getting the Bill through.) General Botha promised that Parliament would appoint three members to see into the matter and on the report of the Commission they would decide and act. I would say that if the whites can be shifted out by being paid a reasonable sum or given farms nearer to a market, it would be satisfactory. We welcome the Committee here to-day; we are glad to see them and hope they will put our views forward.

Mr. A. LE ROUX.] I agree with what Mr. Calverley has said. Compensation would be acceptable, and I think we should ask the Government to do their best for the farmers.

Mr. H. B. VAN DER SCHYFF.] Mr. Chapman, we are thankful to the Government for the farms which have been given to us and of which we have made use. We see the trouble of the white race and the natives and the Government must do the best which they can. It is not for us to-day to say we want the Government to do this or to do that; every year the Government will do what it thinks is good, but we have got our farms; have improved them and live on them. The Committee is going round now and we do not know what ground is taken and what is not taken yet, so it is a most uncertain matter for us to-day to say we want this or that, because we do not know yet whether our area will fall out or in. The Government has been so kind as to allot these farms to us; we had no land, but that does not say that we must be tied up here. We would be very glad if Government would shift us to other lands closer and nearer to a market, where we could work more and better. We are not certain whether these lands will fall in or out, but we will try and make as easy terms as can be made if the land falls in a native area.

Various questions were put and answered at this stage.

Mr. W. Calverley (replying to questions put by Mr. Chapman).] I have lived in the district since 1888. Yes, many of the farms—in fact all the farms—were occupied by the natives and used as commonage in the summer. The Qudeni was used by natives—the two Matshanas, Mbuzo's and Fulateticala's people used that as summer grazing; they did not live on the mountain itself; they lived on the slopes—there is no ground for cultivation on the mountain itself. The country nearer to Nkandhla was fairly thickly populated by natives. Some of them have moved owing to European occupation; I should say a very small proportion did leave the farms—in some cases where the master has not been to the native's liking they have left, otherwise they have continued to reside on the farms. They work in lieu of rent generally, as far as I know. They receive a very small nominal wage in most cases; in other cases they receive a fair wage as in Natal. The area near the Magistracy is very suitable for native occupation, because it consists of ravines and ground which suits the native for early cultivation. There is not much for European cultivation; it is more of a grazing than an agricultural area. The northern portion is more still of a pastoral than agricultural area. There is a very small amount of arable land in all in the whole of the area. The natives have not suffered this way from the land being thrown open for Europeans, but in the Qudeni they have because they have no run for their stock except amongst their gardens. The natives like to have a free run and gather them in when the time comes. In fact, many of the stock used to remain out night and day until they came down in the winter. The stock is increasing very well indeed lately; I might mention cattle especially. No, the whole of the country in the southern portion is not a good sheep area, I should consider. There is a small portion of ridges in the north-east towards the Itala which is good sheep country; the more you lean over towards the Umhlatusi the better it is for sheep. There is far better sheep veld in the native area than in the pink. You cannot really go below the Ekombe on the top. It is good summer grazing for sheep, but they have no winter runs—I mean the triangle on the top, right up to Gunderson's.

Mr. F. N. Fouche.] It is only a recommendation which I make to the Committee: if the Government thinks this area good enough to shift natives into, then let them give the white people that area from Vant's Drift to Isandhlwana, along the main road to Nondweni, then along the old Province line by Sipezi to the river Umkozweni and the Umhlatusi. It was the wish of General Botha also that the public should put some ideas to him as to how to form the line.

Mr. H. B. van der Schyff proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Chapman and the Secretary, and proceedings terminated about 4 p.m.

Report of Evidence taken at Ensingabantu, Division of Nkandhla, Zululand during forenoon of 14th May, 1917.

Mr. T. E. Chapman and Secretary present.

Mr. H. SUTTON, President of the Qudeni Farmers' Association, reads an address, which he puts in as evidence.

Mr. S. N. ROBBINS.] As you will see by that document, this is, of course, quite a new community. Altogether, I think, we have been here about ten years, and for the state of the country, the state of the roads, and the drawbacks in every way you will acknowledge that we have done fairly well for a new district. Although living only about 35 miles from the railway, yet we have no road to that railway. If we had a road we could certainly have gone in for other products, such as cream and other things. In farming we have had to satisfy ourselves with sheep, because it was the easiest product to get to market—a distance of now 80 miles to Dundee station, and then, as you know, about 280 miles from Dundee to Durban, while that is our market. I am pointing out that though these are Government farms, yet the Government has really not looked after a community that has been able and willing to do for itself by developing, and, therefore, I say the Government have come short of their duty. Now I come to the Bill which affects us in every way—socially, morally and financially. We find ourselves, according to the report of the Commission which was appointed by the Government, in the native area; there is no getting out of the fact—native area. Therefore, as commonsense men we say: 'Well, what is the outcome of this? What is to become of our children? How are we to develop?" Is it really the meaning of the Government to keep us in that native area like prisoners, and some have gone so far as to say this is the interpretation of the law. Our own commonsense says it is wrong that we are to be disenfranchised; that we are outcasts, according to the Bill; that we are to go back to be like natives under native law, well, the fact is we as Britishers say we won't and can't stand it; if the Government do not get us out of this position we will try something else. Now this is our meaning: Why should we be in the native area when there are lands in front of us, undeveloped, belonging to the native that will lead us right on to a white community again? I refer now to the Babanango District—lands that could be occupied by Europeans and developed as we have developed these lands, and they, too, could make a living and could make headway. Then we say the Government certainly should meet us here, and if this Bill is likely to go through they can see our position. Let those lands be added on; take those lands from the native and add them on to the European area to join up with the Babanango District, and we are willing to stay here. Better land we cannot get; we are satisfied with it; but then you make a large European community and you get industries such as dairies, cheese factories, schools, churches, roads, etc. Then you have a European community which can develop and be of benefit to the Union. Otherwise, gentlemen, if that is not done our position is a sad one, a very sad one indeed. What is the use of our lands? The Government say again under the Bill, "You want to sell your land," but it seems as if we were not bound to sell them if we were satisfied to live like monkeys or like the natives. Then they will leave us here in that position until we die. You can carry on to a man's death, but what then—what is the picture? Well, it is willed to his family but what is it worth to his family? Practically nothing but the scrap of paper you have your will on. Therefore, we come to this: the Government say again—you can sell to a native if you wish to. Now, gentlemen, we have been brought up with natives; we know the natives—you can go miles round here and you would not find a native with 5s. in his hut. Perhaps you have not time to see our homesteads. You have perhaps seen the best homesteads on the farms here, Mr. P. Titlestad's, but some of us have got very decent homes; our farms are practically fenced in; we have little privet hedges round; we have planted gums and we have planted ornamental trees. Any value to the native? No, there is no native can buy any of our farms; it is ridiculous of the Government to ask us to do so and advertise the lowest price we will take. Why shoud we be placed in that position? We are white men; we are Britishers. Now, the only thing the Government can do with us is to play fair with us—not to force us that way; not to starve us out. This is for the benefit of the Union—not any individual, for the Union. Are we to be cast away for the sake of the Union Are we to become Kafirs—natives—for the sake of the Union, the Transvaal and the Free State, for instance? No, the only fair thing the Government can do—we will put this proposition forward: 1st, we want to be in a European area: add on land—take it off somewhere else—let us be in European area and leave us on our farms. If the Government cannot do that, the only next thing they can do—it is no use humbugging about selling to natives; we are not going to do it. Advertise our farms! What have we done? Nothing. The Government must value our farms on a fair compensation and pay us well. They can have our farms. We agree so far as this: the principle of segregation is correct. It is the right thing: everyone, every farmer knows that, and I think right through the Union the principle of the thing is approved, but this is the thing: are they going to be unjust to the Europeans so as to be just to the

native? Is that the principle of the Bill—that the European, after all his development, after all his worries, is to be a castaway and the native is to come forward and take up our possessions in this way? We, I think, have laid our case very fairly. There are only two things to be done by the Government, and those are fair things, *i.e.*, either bring us into a European area or buy us out fairly and squarely. I, personally, will go so far as this: if they won't give me money; if they won't buy me out—give me land in Natal, in old Natal. (A voice: In Mooi River?) Yes, Mooi River will do. I think I have said all I can, Sir, therefore I leave it there.

The meeting, after consideration and consultation, decided to ask that the boundaries of the additional area prayed for be:—

From the S.E. beacon of the Nkandhla town lands in a straight line to the N.W. beacon of the farm "Tafelkop" on the Umhlatusi; thence along the external boundary of Reserve No. 19 to the top of the Ingogo Hill (the southern corner of the farm "Broadacre," and where the boundary line of the Nkandhla and Nqutu Divisions commences); thence in a straight line to the top of the Etanyeni Mountain; thence in a straight line to the present beacon on the Madhlosi Mountain.

Mr. J. M. KOEKEMOER.] I think we are all very pleased to meet you here to-day. You have been appointed by the Government as a Committee to meet us and hear our grievances, and therefore I think we are all very thankful, as we know to-day that we are in the native area. In the first place we are thankful that the Government did give us farms in this district. I do not think for a moment there are many of us who are not pleased with what the Government has done. There might be a few who took up land for the purpose of speculation, but most of us not. We came here to settle down. I came here to settle as long as I am living, and I am quite pleased with the farm I have got. We are trusting to-day to the Committee to put our grievances before the Government; that we do not like to part with our farms, and that they will do their best to point out our grievances, which have been laid before the Government already, and to place us in touch with the white European area at Babanango. There is much land which could be given to the natives for an exchange for the good land that is laying in this district in which there is scarcely a native to be seen to-day. Not for us who are living here; we do not expect any more from the Government, but we must see people who will fall into the native areas and who must exchange their farms, and therefore we bring this matter before this Committee and ask them to put it before the Government, as it has been laid down already. We want justice done to us and we do not like to see that the Government will do injustice to the black; they are also living in the Colony but we do not like to see ourselves shifted from our farms for the sake of the black. We do not know to-day what the Bill will be—quite how far it will be carried out, but we want to be careful to prevent our properties to go to waste amongst natives. Therefore, gentlemen, I think that enough has been said about it and that you will put the matter clear before the Government and do your best for us in this case. I have nothing more to say, because much has been said and our view is if we could get that slip of land connected with this. This is useless to natives. I have been born with natives and I am not against the Bill for segregation, but I want to see us treated fairly and justly by the Government and we trust the Committee will put that clearly before them.

Note.—Messrs. Robbins and Koekemoer speak as delegates of the Qudeni Farmers' Association.

Mr. ELIAS TITLESTAD reads an address, which is put in as evidence: The country recommended as an additional area is not thickly populated. It is very good for European occupation. It is fairly high veld and very good for winter sheep grazing. Half is good low veld and the other half very good high veld. It is well watered. No, there would not be very many natives disturbed if that became European area. I pointed the same thing out to the Lands Commission in Eshowe, but as far as I know there is no mention of it in their report. I think you could get the same acreage by effecting an exchange with some farms in the Umfolozi and Mpembeni; also No. 24; Mr. Zietsman would be glad to effect an exchange; No. 25 would also come in that, although it has been reserved by Government for mining purposes. Nos. 26 and 40 would also come in.

Mr. J. M. Koekemoer.] I consider the portion recommended is just as good as any portion of Umvoti County, where I was born and brought up.

Mr. Elias Titlestad (continuing).] Our occupation has not affected the natives at the Qudeni. There were no kraals on the top. Down at my place (Ntingwe) there were a few, but they took kindly to it. They are willing to come in from the location to my farm. I have had to refuse them. We do not see the need of territorial segregation. We suggested that this land should be thrown open when Sir Charles Saunders went round and we said: "Let the natives remain on the farms." We have not disturbed many natives, but in some cases they stole and would not work, so they had to go. Regarding the Qudeni lots on the top, it is not at all suitable for native occupation; it is too cold and only fit for summer grazing as far as the native is concerned. They cannot grow anything; the soil is too poor.

Mr. H. Sutton.] The native would be far better off than the European if it became a native area. They would use the top part for summer grazing and live in the valley.

This part cannot be beaten as cattle country; the cattle never die unless you hit them on the head, and horses breed like rats.

Mr. E. Titlestad.] There are some 7,000 to 8,000 acres on top of the Itala where there are no kraals. The natives graze their stock there. With regard to schooling, we have to send the children to Durban. If we had a larger community we could have a school.

Mr. H. Sutton.] With regard to improvements, most of the farms are fenced; many are sub-divided into paddocks—most of them, in fact. The majority have cattle and sheep dips; those who have not got dips dip with their neighbours. More dips will be in erection as soon as the cost of material is reduced. The sheep do as well here as they do in Natal. We have held our own and we get a splendid price for our wool.

Mr. C. R. Lindsay.] We have been handicapped considerably: we have no roads, no telephone—absolutely nothing. We have had to do everything ourselves. There has been reference made to lands being added on, and I think those lands added on should be set apart for returned soldiers who have gone to serve the Empire. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Chapman addressed the meeting, and before dispersing Mr. Lindsay asked that an expression of their sympathy be conveyed to Mr. Evans in his trouble.

COPY.

Objections to expropriation of farms in Nkandhla Division for natives, as proposed by the delegates elected to meet the Natives' Land Committee on behalf of Qudeni Farmers' Association: —

Gentlemen,—We are authorised by a unanimous vote of the members of Qudeni Farmers' Association to object most emphatically to the expropriation of our farms, and to indicate an area more suitable for native occupation. Also to suggest to the Committee that the fine stretch of country lying between Qudeni Lots and Babanango Farms be added to the non-native area. This is quite suitable for all kinds of farming, and would make the district second to none in the Union—large enough to support a railway, a central town, with its cheese, butter, wattle, and all the many industries that go to supply a market. We would point out that here are game and forest reserves, 3,500,000 acres in extent, producing nothing, part of which could be given to natives with great advantage to the sugar planters. This land is the very thing for natives and would not interfere with any Europeans. There are also some farms at Makosini; this is said to be the birthplace of the Zulu race and is the burial place of their kings. Land here could be exchanged with benefit to both races.

We have several reasons for objecting to resigning our farms in favour of the natives. First, because there is a clause in our deeds prohibiting us from selling our farms to anyone other than a European; therefore we cannot under any circumstances let natives have our farms without breaking faith with our neighbours and our original agreement with the Government.

Then again, when Zululand was handed over to Natal by the Imperial Government, a promise was required from the Natal Government that only those parts which were sparsely occupied by natives should be delineated. General Dartnell (representing the Imperial Government) and Sir Charles Saunders were appointed to supervise the survey, with instructions agreeably with the promise to the Imperial Government. That General Dartnell and Sir Charles Saunders carried out their instructions can even now be seen by the very few old kraal sites on our farms. By this, gentlemen, we hope to have proved that politically it would be wrong for the Government to expropriate our farms.

Now, we wish to show also that economically it would be a mistake to turn us from our homes. Up to 1906, except for the sawyers in the forest (a great pity that these most useful men were turned away by the Forest Department), this district sent out nothing. The natives consumed all the stock they produced, and all the crops they grew. A great many mealies came into the district, but no produce of any description went to market. No improvements were made, except the white men's stores and the Government road. Nothing of any value was done, so that this splendid district did not justify itself in any way. Now all this has been altered by European occupation, we wish to show by the attached statistics, by which it will be noticed that several farmers have been able to grow some very fair crops, considering that the natives were never able to produce sufficient to supply their own wants; but we must point out that this has only been effected by the use of the most up-to-date implements and commercial fertilisers. Only those who have employed these means have been able to get any return to their labour. Primitive implements and no fertilisers result in no crops, and those who have gone to work in this way have soon condemned their lands. We mention this to show that Sir Charles Saunders was right and that land at this altitude is quite unfitted for native occupation, and as in the past would only supply summer grazing for a few head of cattle and horses belonging to the richest natives. The tigers, baboons, etc., would again multiply, and the result would be waste land, as we found it in 1906.

Gentlement, we now come to our last objection. Perhaps you will say that you can hardly be expected to entertain this, as it is purely sentimental and can easily be remedied,

but to us it is a very real objection. We mean that we are attached to the homes we have created. Some of us came here as quite young men with hopes of permanent homes, of marrying when the worst was over. This in many instances has been effected. Others were older; their families were left behind while the home was being made, under great hardships, without transport (East Coast fever having broken out and roads stopped). Labour was scarce; the natives were not friendly at first, so most work, building, etc., had to be done with our own hands. In most cases, stock represented all of our capital. Then the first journey out with our wives; the fear lest she should refuse to stay, and the anxiety with our little children, or of those who watched their boys grow into men and establish their own homes, or have gone to the war. We do object to leaving the homes we have made, where every tree or stone brings an old memory. We object to leaving our neighbours, who are very real friends.

Gentlemen, we hope you will put this before the Government and show them that we are not willing to leave our farms. We are 10 years older now than we were when we settled here; this means much to some of us, and we feel that we cannot start again where we were 10 years ago.

COPY.

N'tingwe, Qudeni,
12th May, 1917.

The Chairman, Natives Land Commission,

Sir,—In welcoming your Commission to Qudeni on this occasion, in connection with the hearing of evidence for and against the Native Affairs Bill recently before Parliament, I beg to submit for your consideration the following points:—

1. On the annexation of Zululand to Natal one of the conditions of such annexation was that a joint Imperial and Colonial Commission be appointed after an interval of five years from date of annexation, to delimit sufficient land reserves for native locations, after which the Natal Government were to be at liberty to deal with the unreserved land.

2. In August, 1902, a Commission, consisting of Sir John Dartnell, on behalf of the Imperial Government, and Sir Charles Saunders, on behalf of the Colonial Government, were appointed for the purpose of delimiting sufficient land reserves in this Province for native locations. This Commission worked diligently for a period extending over two years, and came to the ultimate conclusion—correctly, in my opinion—that in certain districts throughout Zululand certain lands could be alienated from the native areas proper and thrown open for European occupation without undue interference with the native population.

3. On the recommendation of this Commission certain lands in each district were delimited, being subsequently surveyed into farms, and with one or two exceptions allotted to European settlers, who have in most cases gone to considerable expense in cultivating same, building homesteads thereon, and generally improving their holdings to such an extent that at the present time, instead of the usual unproductive, barren appearance common to native locations generally, these lands are beneficially occupied by the Europeans to which they were allotted and are a credit to the country.

4. The native population accepted this change of ownership without demur, and neither European nor native residents have since asked for or sought any alteration in the existing conditions. This, in itself, should be ample proof that the settlement of the land questions, as decided upon by the *Delimitation Commission* is agreeable to both parties concerned.

5. For some unknown reason, unknown to us residents and apparently unknown to most people in Natal, another Commission was appointed by the Union Government in 1913, who were supposed to go over the same ground and do practically the same work as the previous Imperial-Colonial Commission. That it did not do so is certain. The *Saunders' Commission* visited every centre in Zululand and spared neither time nor trouble in their work. The Commission of 1913 considered a flying visit here and there sufficient for its purpose—probably this was the case. This district was judged from Eshowe, a distance of over 60 miles, the Commission deciding without inspecting the lands that they should remain in the native area. How the Commissioners came by this decision, or what prompted them to it, is not for me to say. It has been a conundrum to all of us settlers ever since, and reflects very little credit on the manner in which the Commissioners carried out their appointed work. Here, on what is known as "Qudeni Farm Lands," we have some 40 farms, all or most of them beneficially occupied, being yearly improved by the occupiers, an object lesson as compared with the land occupied by the natives themselves.

It may be, and I believe it is, argued that it is not desirable to have isolated European areas in the midst of a native area, but as far as the Qudeni Farm Lands are concerned there is no occasion for being so isolated and this argument will not hold good. There is a small tract of country lying between the Qudeni Farms and Babanango, at present sparsely occupied by natives, which could be thrown open for European occupation. This would connect this portion of the European-occupied area with the Vryheid District and make the European area continuous. If a "quid pro quo" was necessary, farms held in the Mpembeni and Mfolosi Valleys might be included in the native area, for I am quite satisfied that

the owners of the latter farms would be only too pleased to effect an exchange for this area, giving them measure for measure.

6. Apart from the value of this district as a farming area, minerals are plentiful. We have in this district two distinct gold mines, situated on Nos. 25 and 30, respectively, both these farms being reserved for mining purposes by the Mines Department. The extensions of these mines are known to run into the adjoining farms. Mining operations at present are, of course, owing to this great European conflict, at a standstill, but will be, I am credibly informed, resumed immediately the war is over. It would be a serious matter for this reason alone, to allow this portion of the district to revert to native reserve.

Again, we have the coal belt which can be said to extend over the whole of the Qudeni plateau, which will in time prove an immense asset to the country. Iron deposits in the same and adjoining districts are equally valuable. The Qudeni and Nkandhla forests, which are said to cover 36,000 acres, at present a most valuable asset, could not be considered so in a native area.

These are only a few reasons why the Qudeni Farm Lands should never have been recommended for inclusion in the Native area, and had the 1913 Commissioners visited the district and investigated on the spot as they should have, and were supposed to have done, they would have decided otherwise.

7. The foregoing notes are merely bearing on the question of retaining Qudeni Farm Lands as an European area or allowing them to revert to native reserve, but now a few remarks on the greater evil, the *Native Affairs Administration Bill*, may be admissible.

We understand that this Bill has been introduced to bring this Colony into line and to suit conditions prevailing in the Transvaal, Orange Free State and portions of the Cape Colony. I have no personal experience of these portions of the Union so cannot commend or condemn the Bill as far as these Provinces are concerned, but Natal and Zululand I am thoroughly acquainted with and can confidently state that in my opinion under present conditions the Bill as we have seen it presented to the Legislative Assembly is absolutely unsuitable to this Province. It would be next to impossible to bring it into use. I see no reason whatsoever why it should be sought to make it apply to Natal. Neither the European nor the native populations have found it necessary to ask for any adjustment in the conditions at present prevailing, and we Europeans fail to see why it should be forced upon us, why we should be asked to share in the evils and troubles of the other Provinces of the Union.

The natives in Zululand are well provided for; a murmur is never heard from them as to the insufficiency of the land allotted to them by the Saunders' Commission. They have more than sufficient for their present and future requirements. Moreover, they are quite satisfied to be allowed to go on as they are at present. All they want is to be allowed to continue as they have been doing for years, without being troubled with any new laws or any new form of Government whatsoever.

If this Bill becomes law and its conditions are enforced upon the natives, serious trouble will result, and this fact cannot be too strongly impressed upon the Union Government before any further harm is done.

Before concluding this letter, I wish to state that I have been born in this district, as have also many of my neighbours. I have lived here all my life and have sunk all my means in improving the property which I hold, and I claim that I have as much right to remain in peaceable possession of my holding as any native in the country. I have fought for the country on more than one occasion, and may have to do so again if this Bill passes into law. I strongly object to my property coming under the suggested native administration.

The *Saunders' Commission* recommended that natives should not be allowed to enter into competition with Europeans for the acquisition of Crown lands in the Province of Zululand, and this recommendation was, I believe, accepted by the Imperial Government—yet here we have the Union Government trying to force the opposite on to us and disturb the existing good relations between European and natives.

Thanking you and your fellow-Commissioner for coming amongst us and listening to our grievances.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Yours obediently,

(Signed) E. TITLESTAD.

Report of Evidence taken in Magistrate's Court Room, Melmoth, Zululand, during forenoon of 15th May, 1917.

After the usual introductory address by Mr. Chapman (the only member of the Committee present),

Mr. B. V. DOWDALL, Secretary of the Nkwaleni Farmers' Association, read a petition from his Association, which he put in as evidence. In reply to questions put

by Mr. Chapman, he stated: There were native kraals on very few lots when I took over. The natives have moved on account of the sickness (fever) prevalent there, not as a result of Europeans taking up the land. You will find the old kraal sites—where they were prior to our coming there. After we came they had the option of staying; some stayed on and some did not. Some remained on condition that they were allowed to run their stock and work so many months for the tenant. I do not know whether they pay rents. I have no tenants on my place. I think they work in lieu of paying rent. The average size of the farms is about 400 acres—from 300 to 700 acres. I am quite satisfied I can make a living if I can get sufficient native labour; this is obtained from the adjacent native reserves. We suggest an extension down the river towards Empangeni. We should then be joined up with that place. That area is the same as our own land. Our land is very good level soil. It requires stumping and capital, but needs no fertilising. The rainfall is deficient—20 odd inches per annum. A record of the rainfall is kept by Mr. Garbutt. There has not been any nagana amongst the cattle. They certainly got a thin sort of sickness, but it may have been a parasite. Some natives appear to have had the fever. I went there practically straight from England six years ago, and have not had fever—without taking any precautions. Fever would not deter people from taking up lands there. The heat is a big drawback. Some of the present allottees dip in neighbours' tanks. The price of materials prevents any building at the present. Stock do very well there all the year round. They are butcher fat provided you are not overstocked. 400 acres would carry about 90 head, not quite 100 head; I think one beast to about 4½ acres. The bush is the drawback at present; if there was less bush and more grass it would be better. We have had to clear the land a lot. The original price varies from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per acre. Farms back from the river generally have a farm fronting the river as well. On the Melmoth there are three small streams; on the other side there are none. The same conditions pertain as regards the water supply further down the river. I think boring for water would be a feasible proposition. Every farm is fenced; some have borrowed. The homesteads are ordinary—not many valuable buildings. Most people have been busy developing the land. It is mainly a stock proposition. Three farms have changed hands pretty frequently since allotment. I do not know the reason; they are as good as the other farms. I am quite satisfied with the district, the land and everything. Of course, the climate is not what it might be, but as regards the settlement there is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. A. B. SHEDLOCK.] I am agent for the farm "Spes Bona." I cannot express exactly the ideas of the owner, but from the little I understand of the Bill I do not think he would like it to come in the native area. There are 12 kraals on the farm, and it is not occupied by a white man at present, but it is a valuable asset as a sheep farm. Natives, as far as I can see, are not likely to appreciate that farm for sheep as a white man would. (Mr. Chapman here explained several provisions of the Bill.) The time taken in the process of selling would be a serious hindrance. I do not think the farm is suitable for natives—the natives there invariably have to buy mealies. Personally, I have not farmed on the land; wattles do all right; it is splendid as winter veld for sheep, but I fancy it would carry sheep all the year round. The natives on that farm do not pay rent. They are supposed to, but they never do. I pay them so much as pocket money a month when they work for me and then stand responsible for their Government dues. They are not good payers. I should certainly prefer to see that farm excluded from the area. It appears to me to be interfering with the rights of the subject in not letting him have continuous control of it for his descendants. There are no improvements except a sheep dip on the farm. Sheep do very well there in the winter, and farmers are very anxious to negotiate for it for the next year.

Mr. A. W. SYMMONDS.] Most of the farms, except those bordering on the river, are used for winter sheep grazing. "Tafelkop" and "Mooiplaats" were used for sheep. I lease the farms "Rechterswell" and "Spelonk." I have a tank and I intend cultivating there. I consider that it is advisable they should not come within the native area. My intention is to make the tenants labourers, not rent-paying tenants. It is the biggest job out to get rent from them. If I utilize them on the farms I think I will get most out of them. I have only had the farms about 6 months; they are not fenced. I would add that minerals exist all through the belt (*i.e.* farms in Proviso B. in Umhlatuzi Valley). The native reserve on the other side of the river (in Nkandhla Division) is fairly well populated where there is water: I think there would be room for many more. There are no natives at all wishing to buy land, except one man who came in from Natal and bought land, one Mfanefile Kuzwayo.

Mr. C. P. VAN ROOYEN (interpreted).] I have grown up here in the country and know the natives, but I do not see one who is in a position to buy any ground. As regards the natives living round about the valley, they are all in poor circumstances; perhaps they have one or two head of cattle. When I got to the Nkwaleni farms about six years ago there was hardly a native there, and they all left the vicinity on account of fever. The only thing I can see they would use that land for is to make "ncinas" (native hunts), because they never even made any gardens there. There will not be

so much revenue from the natives for the Government as would be obtained from the European settlers in the Valley.

Sir CHARLES SAUNDERS, K.C.M.G.] Certainly I do not wish these farms of ours to remain in a native area, and I do not see the object of it. These farms have all been allotted between 20 and 30 years ago; they have been allotted to Europeans. It has become an established fact, and the natives have become used to the conditions. What is the use of going back? My evidence would be biassed evidence, because I have personal interest in the thing. Yes, I am ranching there now. We are fencing the farms and putting up buildings. It is our intention to fence and paddock the whole lot. One farm is fenced off on two sides. We are not going to hold these farms and let them lie idle; we are going to develop them as much as we can. We have already two dips, and a third one is just going to commence; the materials are on the spot. We have not completed the buildings yet. We have only recently acquired some of the land. We have only been in possession of "Mooiplaats" since January. There is a European there, a house, a dip and a lot of cattle. In my experience cattle do very well there. I can tell you our losses. Last year we handled about 600 head of cattle and our losses—including losses by railway journey and calves and everything else—were under 5 per cent. On the whole lot—*i.e.*, all the lots—we have nearly 1,600 head. I am quite satisfied it is a paying proposition. I do not see how it can possibly be anything else, unless we have enormous unforeseen losses. Our occupation has not caused any natives to move. They were given the option to remove or to remain. They have to work; we don't charge any rent. The youngsters have to work four months of the year in lieu of rent and then, after that, they are paid for anything they do. There were very few native cattle when we got there, but they are increasing, and there are about 240 head now. It is a condition that they have none of their own bulls. They get the benefit from our own good bulls, which we consider is a good policy. We let these fellows have a certain number of cattle—nearly all the kraals have a number of our own cattle; we give them a certain number to milk and they herd a number of our cattle. We are getting down sheep now—a few hundred—as an experiment, and I do not see any reason why they should not do well. We are going to breed mules also. I can tell you the reason why the Nkwaleni block was thrown open: it was that it was what appeared to be a very fertile portion of the country and one that seemed to lend itself to a big irrigation scheme. Natives could not live there; they had died over and over again. They would live there for a year or two, but a bad season would mean they would all have to leave. It was all practically unoccupied—there it was lying waste and it struck us as being a very favourable place for closer settlement, particularly in view of irrigation. A few natives might go there if it reverted to native territory, but the same thing would happen again—there would be waves of fever which would decimate whole kraals and they would have to go away. Take Mbango's people: they used to live right down the Umhlatusi, but the bulk are all back again now on the high land. Regarding the Crown lands in the Ntambanana Valley, I think it is a suitable country for Europeans. Natives were not living there for the same reason as in the Umhlatusi. It is very fine cattle country. It is dry, but water might be conserved by damming up hollows. I think that in most of the flat country you could get water by boring. The position with regard to these areas is this: that they were lying idle and doing nothing. Game might come there and spread fly all over the place; why not let Europeans go there and make some use of it? It is possible that natives having seen Europeans live in these bad parts might try again, but I think the same thing would be repeated—bad seasons of fever would decimate them. That applies to the greater portion of the low country. I think we included most of the flat ground in that allotment (Nkwaleni). The foothills up to Eshowe are more thickly occupied; this part is not so badly watered as lower down. With regard to our position here: when we decided to take up these farms we had no reason to suppose they would be included in a native area, and we spent a lot of money. Who is going to recompense us for that? Are we to stay there on the chance of being able to sell to natives? Also it would retard our progress: how are we to do it with a rope round our neck like that? We could not throw up now if it became a native area; one would have to carry on. There are possibilities but you could not expand under present conditions. One has spent as little as possible latterly under those conditions. I think very few natives would be prepared to buy. Some of the more advanced Natal people might buy, but very few indeed amongst the Zulus. If they could buy in a communal way—a tribe—you might find some who would. It would cause no end of disturbance in the country if they did. If the Natal natives came here the Zulus would resent it. The native owner would be far worse than a white man; if they were under native owners they would be far worse off than under Europeans—when a native acquires land they grind down their tenants far worse than a white man. Natal natives came into Eshowe principally before the annexation of the country; a few came in afterwards, but the policy then was to discourage it as much as possible—to restrict Natal natives coming in as much as possible. The Zulus do not care about Natal natives coming in. No, in my opinion, I think we allowed the natives enough land. Our instructions were to allow them sufficient for their future requirements, allowing for natural increase. We delimited on a liberal scale, and we thought we delimited sufficient. There would

not be room in the present reserves for an influx from Natal under their present mode of occupation. If they were more advanced there is no doubt a very much larger number could occupy than at present, but as at present they could not. If you attempted to introduce natives from Natal into these reserves you would create serious trouble at once. Yes, in time I think the Zulu might be educated to be taught to economise his ground; it might take longer than with Natal natives. The country could carry a much larger population if the people were educated up to it. It would be a slow process. The younger generation might be educated up to it more easily than the older people, who are very conservative. As regards the proposal for additional lands at the Qudeni, which you refer to: the natives there are old tribes who have been occupying that portion of the country for a long time, and where can you shunt those people to? You will find that country possibly thickly populated. We had to leave grazing for these people, but we threw open as much as ever we could. People who have lived in high country like that cannot be moved to low country. I suppose they would remain on farms under European ownership sooner than leave. The whole position there was that that was the only portion which we felt we could throw open. I personally would not recommend that any additional land be thrown open. The Qudeni was used a great deal by the natives for grazing, but we curtailed as much as we could and left them as much high veld for their stock as we could. That portion near Owen's has always been occupied by a small tribe which has been very loyal, and those people should not be interfered with. If you go and cut that area up into farms those people would sooner remain there than leave. They have lived there for generations—I think some go back to Tshaka's time. Yes, during the delimitation, we always had representatives from every tribe, and they were pointed out all the beacons in every instance. The areas were all carefully surveyed. If the Government are going to expropriate us the fairest thing is that they should pay for it. We bought these farms, having no idea they would be included in a native area; what has led to their being included I cannot make out at all. I can only think that some people thought they would get rid of their farms by Government taking them over. We have spent a lot of money in stock and one thing and another; well, who is going to compensate us for that? We have done this with the idea of progressing and spending more, but if this comes through it will make us very careful about spending more. In our case we would not be glad to be expropriated. In my opinion, it was on account of that—someone wishing to get compensation—that these particular lands were included, but I cannot see what benefit it is going to be to grab a little piece of land here and another little piece there.

Mr. A. W. Symmonds.] Mr. Muller recommended the Umhlatuzi farms with a view to getting an exchange of land in native reserve in Nkandhla Division.

Sir Charles Saunders.] Such a suggestion is impracticable; I remember that some question was brought up and I said I did not see how it could be done.

The meeting dispersed at about 1 p.m.

COPY.

Report of the N'kwaleni Farmers' Committee on the Umhlatuzi Valley Settlement, situated between Eshowe and Melmoth.

To the Committee of Enquiry in connection with the report of the Natives Land Commission:—

Gentlemen,—Dealing first with the condition of the adjacent native locations situated on valley land, we beg to state that these would justify the said land being made available for more settlers, inasmuch as the natives only make use of the place as a hunting ground, and to cultivate small patches along the river banks. This low-lying land is practically devoid of native kraals, and the adjacent locations on the hills are but sparsely populated, which the farmers know too well as native labourers are never to be had in sufficient numbers. As regards the natives themselves, most kraals possess a few head of cattle and all have goats; the proceeds from the sale of a small number of the latter readily disposes of the hut tax. Owing to inherent indolence their crops are in consequence totally insufficient for their needs, and if it were not for this factor the settlers would not obtain any labourers at all. A benefit the natives have received since European occupation is the ability to purchase grain at 12s. to 15s. per bag, whereas before they paid 30s. to 40s. Furthermore, they welcome the settlers inasmuch as they can always obtain "togt" labour at 1s. per diem with rations, and a good many on the reserve bordering on the farms have pointed out how much better conditions are now than they were prior to the advent of white settlers.

The Settlement: The conditions prevailing in the Umhlatusi Valley render it quite

unsuitable for native occupation. In the past malarial fever carried off so many natives that with the exception of not more than 6 kraals the first settlers found the place deserted and overrun by wild dogs and reptiles, which were great barriers to progress, and on nearly every allotment may be still seen old kraal sites, the occupants having moved on to the surrounding high land. Cultivation was carried out in small patches in the moist soil close to the river in order to obtain early crops, but not in any other part whatever of what is now the settlement. The place is still regarded by natives as a fever-den, which partly accounts for the fact that they are not prone to seek labour in it during the busy summer months.

The rainfall is neither good nor reliable, as will be seen from the following figures, and native owners would not be able to raise good crops unless they worked on the scientific dry-farming principles as practised by the successful settlers. A rain gauge was erected on 13th May, 1915, the figures to date being as under:—

1915.		1916.		1917.	
		January ...	3·25	January ...	1·33
		February ...	3·03	February ...	1·95
		March ...	4·98	March ...	1·72
		April ...	1·26	April ...	1·45
May	·90	May	·41		
June	·57	June	·13		
July	·32	July	Nil.		
August ...	·18	August ...	·31		
September ...	1·68	September ...	1·21		
October ...	8·40	October ...	2·33		
November ...	1·74	November ...	1·84		
December ...	6·92	December ...	6·40		
	20·71		25·15		

The farms here consist of 70 Government allotments and within the last six years have all been taken up. With the exception of approximately four farms having native tenants working for the owners the settlement is occupied solely by Europeans, with the following beneficial results.

Cattle Dipping Tanks: 16 in number and more under construction, the cattle numbering some thousands, not including native cattle on the farms. Calves born this season are approximately 700, and 300 odd gallons of cream, averaging 50 per cent butter-fat, have been despatched per week this summer.

Crops: Over 2,000 bags of maize were reaped last season, 1915-'16, the majority of which passed to natives at 12s. per bag, and this season there is every likelihood of that number being doubled, so much more ground having been cleared of bush and put under the plough.

Fruit Trees: There are not many yet in the bearing stage, but the quality of the fruit is very superior. All kinds of citrus have been planted, principally Washington navel oranges, and also mangoes, pawpaws, bananas, Avocado pears, pines, grapes, and the usual varieties of sub-tropical fruits.

Pigs and poultry are also reared, some of which are bringing in tidy little incomes.

The present rate of progress will justify the extension of the Eshowe railway line, and from the above-mentioned facts and figures it is proved that the land here is suitable for both pastoral and agricultural European settlement, also that more land should be opened up for Europeans. The settlement is at present very accessible by a good motor road 30 miles from rail-head.

In the event of the recommendations of the Natives Land Act Commission becoming law, the settlers here are likely to be injured to the extent of being practically ruined because they will not only be totally deprived of the free financial control of their farms, but progress would also be greatly retarded. The homes they hold dear would be broken up, and their title deeds held as sacred documents considered as worthless scraps of paper.

The settlers are unanimously of opinion that legislation should be deferred until after the war, thus allowing the men fighting for the Empire in the cause of Justice and Right a voice in the matter, which they certainly deserve more than anyone else.

Furthermore, that more land should be made available for white settlement, such as the lots already surveyed in the Ntambanana and other suitable unoccupied native land, and first preference in allotment be given to those of our returning troops who desire to settle on the land.

Nkwaleni Farmers' Committee,

B. V. DOWDALL,
Secretary.

15th May, 1917.

[U.G. 35—'18.]

COPY.

Dunkirk Farm, Umhlali, Natal,
26th April, 1917.

Messrs. Evans & Chapman,
Natives' Land Committee.

Dear Sirs,—With reference to my farm "Tradouw," in extent over 7,000 acres, I wish to state while I am opposed to the Bill I cannot say the Commission wrongly included my farm and those adjoining, seeing all the farms along the Umhlatuzi River in Proviso B have native lands on three sides, and until you get near James' the farms on the north are unoccupied.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. H. HULETT.

COPY.

C/O Box 248, Durban,
3rd May, 1917.

Messrs. Evans & Chapman,
Natives Land Committee,
C/o Native Affairs Office, Pittermaritzburg.

Dear Sirs,—I beg to notify you that I strongly object to the inclusion of my farm, "Kortbegrip," in Proviso B., Melmoth Division, and I respectfully urge that it be excluded from the native area. My reasons are that it adjoins Mr. Vanderplank's farm and Mr. Kemp's farm, both of which are not included.

I bought the farm for one of my sons who is at school at present. I have a white man on the farm, and intend as soon as the war is over to stock it and erect further buildings.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. S. L. HULETT.

Report of Evidence taken at Eshowe, Zululand, in the Magistrate's Court Room during the forenoon of 16th May, 1917.

Mr. T. E. Chapman and the Secretary present only.

Mr. W. A. VANDERPLANK.] I am President of the Eshowe Farmers' Association and I am also a land-owner in this division. I have been deputed by the Eshowe Farmers' Association to give evidence before this Committee. From what I have seen of the recommendations of the Commission appointed under the 1913 Act, the Eshowe District is not very greatly affected, but my Association thinks, as I do, that as far as Zululand is concerned we certainly should not go beyond the original delimitation by Sir Charles Saunders and General Dartnell of 1902/3. That Commission thoroughly went into the question and spent some two or three years examining the lands. They made a division of land as between the natives and the Europeans and we think that that delimitation should be adhered to. It was also stated by the Commissioners in their report that they hoped that the delimitation that they had made would stand for all time; that is part of their report to which you have probably had your attention drawn. and we think it is very wrong and very disturbing for everyone—both whites and blacks—that there should be a new investigation and a new delimitation of land. I think everyone in Zululand is prepared to regard the delimitation of 1903 as final. It has been regarded both by whites and blacks as final, and we wish to remain undisturbed. I would like to add that we have these lands laid out on both sides of the Umhlatuzi River —in the Eshowe and Melmoth Divisions. It is very valuable land and can be made exceeding valuable, that is to say by irrigation. It has the foundation of very good agricultural land and it is useless for native settlement. Natives, in the first place, very sparsely occupied it formerly; they would never remain there—they died from fever and starved there, and consequently those Europeans who have taken up the lots have laid the foundation of a very high-class settlement. They have done quite a lot of work while they have been there. Under European occupation that land will be first-class valuable land when the settlers have had more time to develop it, but if left in the hands of the natives it will be what it was before it was laid aside for European settlement. The natives won't live there—they won't care to move; if they did take

up their abode there they would die. The Europeans have done a lot for the natives in the way of growing food for them. Some years ago when the seasons were bad and there was no rain, natives had to buy mealies which came from Durban, and they cost £3 a muid sometimes. Now, the Europeans grow mealies and that stops the natives from fearing famine, because they can always buy mealies from the settlers at a reasonable price. I believe last year's mealies were sold as low as 12s. a bag to natives. Well, anyone who knows the country would realise that that was impossible before the Europeans settled; Natives would never have got mealies at 12s.—at £2 they would probably have considered themselves lucky. We are also opposed to the settlement of too much land for the natives, because it is badly used by them. My own idea is that there should be some scheme for instructing natives to make better use of the land, that is to say we cannot go on perpetually allowing each native to have about 70 acres (I believe it is that right through the Union); we cannot go on allowing the natives to occupy vast areas of land and just scratch them and make very little use of them. The solution of the thing, in my opinion, is that the natives should be encouraged by education and otherwise to make full use of the land, as the white people do, and with that assistance and encouragement I think that the land which has been set apart already for natives is sufficient to sustain a very much larger native population. I know that in 1906 or 1907 the Natal Government spent a lot of money in an irrigation scheme to irrigate this land which has now been recommended for native occupation. Mr. Altern was engaged in surveying it for many months. I had several conversations with Mr. Altern whilst he was on the work and he told me the possibilities there were, which I suppose were all embodied in his report. I suppose the Government will have his report and working and survey plans. The scheme, I believe, was to take out the Umhlatusi higher up, but at that time there was a sort of depression throughout the country; the Government cut out every possible expenditure and the projected irrigation scheme was not proceeded with, merely on account of expense. From what I understood, it was a feasible scheme; I was told the estimate of what it would cost; I believe it was £17,000. It is very rich soil, but it wants water.

Mr. L. B. GARBUTT.] I think this scheme is still ear-marked, because the settlers' title-deeds reserve the right for irrigation purposes, etc.

Mr. Vanderplank (continuing).] As regards farms which have changed hands: Graeme's farm was sold owing to his death, and Hamil's changed hands because he had to leave the country for family reasons. There has been practically no speculation; the original settlers have retained their land. I have not come across any natives who wished to buy land. I think the natives fully realise that they have to occupy land under communal tenure. I do not think they aspire to buy land. I know they do in Natal. I was practising law there and had a good opportunity of knowing. I think that the natives would appreciate instruction and value it, such as draining and so on, but it never occurs to them. I have a lot of land on the flats of the Umkukuzi River which is swampy, and I drained it. Previously the natives used to cultivate little patches where it was dry. I have not been able to use all the land yet and have allowed the natives to cultivate some of the land on the flat, and they are now making big use of it. They keep the drains open for me, but it never occurred to them to drain the land, although it is very valuable. I made the natives make the drain themselves; most of the labour was their own.

Mr. L. B. Garbutt.] I can add very little to that, I think, in connection with the Valley farms. Of course these farms are surveyed out in a locality where the native used to pick little gardens in olden times, but still he reaped nothing, so to speak, for various reasons: lack of cultivation, lack of proper tilling of the ground—turning it up. Of course, to get the best of that ground it wants deep tillage, otherwise it is very subject to droughts and burning off the young crops, and this is a thing the native does not understand, in fact not all the settlers have grasped the idea yet. I have been farming in Griqualand East and the Free State. My son is going on the dry land system; he has planted 60 acres and will reap about 300 bags of mealies. The Kafirs themselves, they welcomed the settlers there for several reasons, one that they have labour for their children close by where they are out of harm's way and the temptations of towns and other temptations which bestrew their way when they work away from home. Natives like to have their children under control. Another reason is the women get a shilling a day for togt work, and there are many women there who prefer to work for the settler at 1s. a day, claiming that they come out better. Then the Kafirs—before the advent of the settlers there—did not occupy these places; Mr. Badenhorst can speak on this point. There were very few Kafir kraals on these surveyed farms, and even now at the present time through the summer and autumn months they are very chary about coming down there for work on account of being afraid of contracting fever. They also point out the fact that they get mealies now very cheaply instead of at from £2 to £3 a bag. Last season two to three thousand bags of mealies were grown in the valley, and practically all were sold to Kafirs; some of the old crop are still for sale at 18s. a bag. The settlers have had a very hard fight there; they have had to stump the land and clear it—at a cost of as much as £5 an acre in some instances. Of course, he will get the return provided he

can stay on there. There is a good lot of ground stumped, and if this last season had not been so bad and dry—our rainfall is just about half of what we had the previous season; I do not think we have had more than 17 inches, whereas the season before we had something like 35 (Mr. Chapman refers to the statistics furnished at Melmoth by Mr. Dowdall and corrects the speaker.) I refer more to the untimely rains; last month, for instance we only had ·63, whereas the year before we had 1·26, and so on. The season before during the growing months we had nice rains and this season we did not; that accounts for the veld being so bad. We have had no nagana; the cattle have done very well. Yes, Mr. Young lost a lot of cattle. I think they died from gallsick and redwater. My son lost some, too, that way, but after inoculation he did not lose any. There are no great improvements—I refer to buildings. There are a good lot of fruit trees planted—papaws, bananas, oranges, naartjes, pines and such like. Yes, Mr. Badenhorst took the water out and that is the farm producing the most mealies this season. Pretty well all the farms are fenced—under the Government Fencing Loan Act, principally. It is very warm there. There has been no fever to my knowledge. There are more native kraals on the farms now than there were three years ago when I came. I am quite satisfied I can make a good living there. The soil is good, and if we can only take out the water we can overcome the rainfall. It is a matter of £ s. d.; getting the money and doing it. We have not tried boring for water. I had a lot of experience of this in the Free State, and think it is a feasible proposition here. I approached the Government on that subject, and they asked how many boreholes we wished put down, and the people were rather afraid of the expense. We would like the Ntambanana Valley lands kept for returned soldiers.

Mr. CASPER BADENHORST, Senr. (speaking in Dutch).] When I first came into that locality it was simply a wilderness and there were no Kafirs residing on it. Distributed over the whole 70 farms were about 6 small kraals, mostly under the hills. The Kafirs won't live there to-day, and even if the ground is given back to them they won't live there. During the summer months we can't get a boy to work there through being afraid of fever. They do not cultivate the ground much. There were about three patches of half an acre or so each on the three farms allotted to me. I would be thankful if the Government gave them that ground back, provided they gave us other ground also in the vicinity where the Kafirs are still not living. Mr. Chapman knows the Tabankulu and Hlopenkulu; there is a lot of good ground there that the Kafirs do not occupy, and I would exchange my lot for land there. I mean to say there is much better land available for natives at present which they are not occupying. There is a lot of well watered ground about the Imfule, in native reserve, also unoccupied. We were grateful that Government had these farms surveyed and allotted; previously the Kafir did not want them and he does not want them to-day. I have sunk £750 there and I must live there. I will be able to make a good living there. I have got 150 acres of bush veld cleared. I have also made an agreement with Mr. Le Roux to make a dam across the Umhlatusi that is going to cost me £100, for irrigation purposes, and then I will be able to have 200 acres under irrigation. I have been there since September three years ago.

Mr. L. B. Garbutt.] Cattle keep in splendid condition all the year round, even when it is dry. I think the Umhlatusi Valley is one of the only places that can produce cream all the year round without feeding cows. My cows have milked very well; I am averaging about 12s. 6d. a month per beast. They are just ordinary cows. I do not think lucerne has had a fair chance there; I am trying some next year amongst the mealies, for shade.

Dr. G. H. WILDISH, District Surgeon of Eshowe.] I think, from what I know of that district generally throughout the country, it is a part of the country that natives naturally shun. If all the white people were taken out of these parts and one was trekking through, one would find kraals away on the hills on either side, but I would not expect to find kraals down in these flats anywhere near the Umhlatusi, because that type of country is particularly bad for malaria, and natives have no means of combating malaria. They work down on the hills in the healthy season until they get on the flat, and then they get a bad season and those who are not wiped off flee from the foothills. With European occupation you get Europeans choosing their house sites with a view to combating this, and undoubtedly Europeans are living in parts of this country where natives will not live. You may get an odd native living in these parts, but not the average man living there for choice. As for native labour, the farmer has a certain amount of difficulty with this if fever breaks out, but he is able to treat them. Natives generally depend on springs and so on for their water supply, and they do not like these waterless places, whereas the white man either puts down a well or conserves water in some other way. Taking these districts generally, you will find there is a kraal here and a kraal a mile or two away, so that each kraal is occupying quite a moderate farm on its own and not using a hundredth part of the ground. It is what strikes one everywhere: the natives have plenty of land to thoroughly waste on a very big scale. The natives themselves have never said a word to me about being cramped for ground. No, I have not had many cases of fever. I have had cases, but not a great many. I think the only definite case in five years was Mr. Birch (of this area) the other day. There have

been no deaths. The natives have peculiar habits. Take a malarial district: they plant in gullies, and the young boys and young girls and the folk that are generally at a kraal are sent out to keep the birds off the crops. They have to go out in the early morning, and I notice that the first people to die are the "Tombazanas" (little girls) and the little "umfanas." You will find the older men and older women take it last. In a malarial district they are very hard hit; they have no idea of taking care. They won't admit it is malaria, and they won't take quinine. These lands are so good. The heat is nothing like that Europeans do live in in other parts of the world—it is not a patch on East Africa or Rhodesia, where I have been. I have not a farm in the whole district; I have no interest in the land. The facts I have given you are definite and incontrovertible.

Report of Meeting held in Chief Magistrate's Court Room, Pietermaritzburg, on 12th June, 1917.

Present: Mr. T. E. Chapman and the Secretary; Mr. F. E. Foxon, Chief Magistrate, Pietermaritzburg.

Mr. G. T. PLOWMAN.] The only point I wish to bring to your notice is the position of the farm "Blaauwbank." I am representing Mr. Samuel Wiltshire in a friendly way. I had a letter from him about it and I told him that I would explain the position to you. This farm is right within the native area. He also owns two other farms, "Elizabeth" and "Muller," immediately on the boundary. Mr. Wiltshire left Natal many years ago and is resident in England now. It is absolutely out of the question that he should occupy this farm, and he has no one to succeed him. The farm is at present leased and the lease expires on the 30th September, 1918. It has been under lease for some years and there is a question of the present lessee purchasing the farm, but he thought that Mr. Wiltshire's terms were too high. He has expressed a wish to purchase it if ultimately they could come to terms. Now, if this farm is left in this area there is no power in the law, as I understand it, to lease to Europeans, so this farm at the end of September next year will be practically derelict, and the only thing open to Mr. Wiltshire is to cut it up and form a sort of native warren there. Now it seems to me that the position which is created under the law as it is at present is most unsatisfactory in a case like this. Mr. Wiltshire has no view one way or the other as to this scheme of native land settlement, but he is very seriously concerned as regards the value of this farm. It is a valuable farm; the river runs right through it. Another point which occurred to me when I was there was the position of these native lands within this particular area. These farms were purchased by natives in community under the old Crown Lands Regulations, and from what I can understand these natives have made very little use of this land. They are practically in the hands of the lawyers. The possibility of natives purchasing these farms seemed to me to be most remote. Mr. Wiltshire, I may tell you, is anxious to sell these farms, but does not, I say, put forward any views on the general question of native segregation. He does take serious exception to the position as it stands to-day that his title is practically confiscated. He recognises that the right is inherent in the Government to expropriate land for public purposes and he is quite willing to sell his farm, but he considers that the farm is being very seriously depreciated in value with the prospect of its being derelict. I saw several of these farms, and it seemed to me that they were well developed. The most important feature is that there is no purchasing power in these natives. They have not been able to keep up their own payments, so what possible hope is there of being able to sell to natives? It seems to me that unless the Government is going to take them in hand and advance money and look after them that the position of these natives will be absolutely hopeless. All this means depreciation of the European settlement in the meantime, and the fact that they are in the midst of a native area, that in itself depreciates their value. I estimate that the farm buildings are worth about £1,000—buildings, fencing and general improvements. The farms (3) really belong to Mr. Samuel Wiltshire. The two outside are leased to a man named Van Rooyen. I think if it became a native area the value of these two farms outside would be depreciated because they immediately abut on the area. From a social point of view they are practically in the area. A man who wishes to establish himself for life would not go on the border of a native location. What European is going to buy a farm in a native area? I think the principle should be laid down that if these farms are within a native area they must be acquired by expropriation—the exemption clause is of no value whatever to my mind. Mr. Bristow, the lessee, pays £100 a year, but I do not think he is willing to buy it under the present conditions. The farm is valued at about £2 an acre. Mr. Bristowe would have bought the farm if it had not been in a native area. He is making a good living there.

Colonel the Hon. E. M. GREENE.] As far as Zululand is concerned, the lands which were delimited by the original Commission consisting of Sir John Dartnell and Sir Charles Saunders for European occupation are lands which are eminently suitable for that

purpose. It is not required for native occupation; the area which has already been reserved for native occupation is more than adequate for the requirements of the natives at the present day and the next fifty years. Those European lands are capable of carrying a very large European population. The majority of the land is a very high-class arable land, and if set apart for natives would simply be wasted in the same old way as all areas which have hitherto been set aside for native areas have been wasted from time immemorial. I am speaking of the whole of the land recommended in Zululand. There is not a shadow of justification for setting aside an additional acre of land for native occupation. I do not know the Pongolo Valley, but I have read of it and met people who know it well. I know the country as far as the White Umfolozi. I am speaking from a personal knowledge of the country of Southern Zululand. The land is eminently suitable for European population; the country was annexed on the condition that the land should be reserved for European occupation, and there is not a shadow of need for breaking faith with the European population by now setting it aside for the natives. The acreage per unit is greater there for the native population than in any portion of South Africa and the bulk of the land is far superior to any other within the Union. They have a bigger acreage of better land than any native area throughout the Union. Further, there is no desire whatever on the part of the natives in Zululand—I talk about natives, not an individual educated man—to acquire land. They are not educated up to that standard and, as General Botha said, it will take a century to educate them up to that standard. We are to-day legislating for the present requirements of the country. I have not been in Northern Zululand. It is very sparsely populated with natives at the present time. Really what the Delimitation Commission went upon more than anything else was they took the areas which the natives themselves had selected for occupation, and they left the lands which the natives themselves had rejected. We all know that European occupation and cultivation will cause fever to disappear. Science will help to get rid of it. This area which is now occupied upon the Coast was at one time a perfect death trap for fever. As far as the Berg lands are concerned, I only want to say that generally the lands are the most unsuitable lands in the Union of South Africa for native occupation. They are incapable of being occupied by natives. They are a very valuable asset to the European farmers for early spring and summer grazing. It would be an absolute waste of land to set them aside for native occupation with the knowledge that they never could be so occupied. Now, as regards the Buffalo Flats area, the potentialities of that area are great, as has been proved by the very considerable development which has taken place along the line from Newcastle to Utrecht within very recent years. A large number of farms within that area I know were purchased by natives, but the native holders to-day are 1/10th of what they were 20 years ago, or say since the war. During the war there were a lot of natives there. The natives have shown that they cannot profitably use those lands under their present system of cultivation, and—even if they could—there is no need whatever to confiscate the rights of Europeans in an area which is eminently suitable for European occupation. I would suggest that where natives are beneficially occupying land within that area that they should not be interfered with. They acquired the lands with our consent and with our approval, and I do not think that we would be at all well advised if we attempted to interfere with their existing registered rights. As the Bill does not provide for any compulsory expropriation of land, I think that the *status quo* should be maintained and if at any time the Government did earnestly desire to carry out the principles under the Act with these farms which are at present held by natives within that area they should be expropriated at the cost of the State from the Public Exchequer—not under the provisions of the Bill. The "Driefontein" Settlement (Klip River Division) should I think, be left as recommended. The natives there have purchased and paid for that land, and every inch of that land is owned and occupied by natives to-day. I want to recommend that if a principle is to be followed in any one of the Provinces it should be followed in every one of the Provinces, and as in the Free State every farm which is occupied by natives is recommended to be included in a native area, so here I think these farms should be within a native area and their rights should be protected. I think it is absolutely incumbent upon us to keep faith with these people. That land ("Driefontein") is being dealt with better than in the Free State. I say as far as Natal is concerned maintain your *status quo*. We have nothing to be afraid of. Let these fellows if they can purchase land on individual title stop communal purchase. So far as individual purchase is concerned, we have nothing to fear. Even if they are getting land on individual title can we justify, as white men, allowing Indians to purchase freely and the people who are born to live on the land should be debarred. We have the remedy in our own hands: under individual title they will acquire land, but not a tenth part of what could be acquired under communal purchase. In the last 15 years the registered holdings of land by natives have decreased by 100,000 acres. Then it was 370,000 acres; now it has come down to 270,000 acres. The evil is not increasing; it is diminishing. We recommend that communal purchase should be absolutely stopped; that individual purchase should not be restricted, but that occupation of land by anyone except the owner should be prohibited except with the sanction of the Magistrate. His labour should be on exactly the same terms as a

European. His return for occupation should be labour and nothing else but labour. Directly you stop communal purchase and rent-paying tenants you have killed the whole business. I do not think there is a shadow of justification for these areas in the "thorns" (Tugela). The potentialities of those thorn lands are very great indeed. To-day, owing to the exigencies of East Coast fever, they are not occupied, but it is idle to say that these are unoccupied European lands, because they are all lands which are beneficially occupied under ordinary conditions. East Coast fever restrictions are not going to be for ever: directly they are removed those lands can be beneficially occupied as in the past. The potentialities of those lands are very great indeed and where you can irrigate especially so. Irrigation is going to be very much more common than it was in the past. In the Cape Colony the Union Government have spent millions in irrigation schemes. We have areas here which are unrivalled for irrigation schemes and those areas ought to be reserved. They were acquired for a definite purpose—for winter grazing and for labour purposes. There is to my mind not a shadow of justification for increasing the native area in those localities. There is not much land there in that particular area which is suitable for irrigation. It is of more particular use for winter grazing and by using it for that purpose I put it to the best use to which it can be put. I get my native labour from there, so why should I in any way be penalised because I hold land in those localities? That area would not carry a much larger native population because of the limited extent suitable for it and water is scarce. There is very little arable land in the whole of that area. As regards the Umkomanzi Valley, there are certain areas here, I believe, belonging to natives at the present time, but all that I have said with respect to the "thorn" lands in Weenen and Klip River applies with even greater force here. The Commission proposed to deal with the area in Alexandra County in an entirely different manner to the measure of justice they propose to mete out to the coloured people in the Cape Colony. These people here are not natives, and it is a perfect scandal to try and force them back to barbarism. They are going to deal with the coloured people of the Cape Colony in a way in which they do not propose to deal with them in Natal. These people are not living native lives. Our duty is to try and elevate them and not drive them back. But the Commission, in putting them into a native area, is doing them a gross injustice. If the law is to be administered impartially throughout the Colony, then what applies to the people in the Cape Colony must apply to the people of Natal. When the Railway was built to Harding we went through the whole of these areas, and the report made by the Railway Board in favour of building a railway was based upon the potentialities of the land over which we looked. Now the Commission propose to put the whole of this land into native areas. These lands are owned and occupied, and have been occupied by Europeans for many years and they have made their living there. I say—leave it. My recommendation was that notwithstanding what they had already done that it should be declared to be a neutral area. I contend that the whole of this area should be a neutral area; that the *status quo* should be maintained. But if you do make it a native area then you are absolutely in honour bound forced to expropriate the lands of the Europeans there. They must be expropriated and paid to the last penny. Either let it be a neutral area or, if it is a native area, absolutely expropriate every European in that area. I want just to say that I object to these two areas in Lower Tugela Division being included in native area. I can tell you that these lands 20 years ago were looked upon as valueless. To-day it is one continuous cane field. You do not know what the development is going to be. I suggest to you that the question should not be considered until it has been ascertained whether, first of all, additional land is required. As to that, I say that the Government are responsible for the manner in which the lands set aside for native occupation have been used up to the present time. I have made a recommendation that no further land should be set aside until the Government has performed its duty to the Natives in the present areas. Our areas are congested to-day because of the very reckless and uneconomical way in which land is used. It is the duty of the Government to appoint instructors to show the best economic use of the land, and if this is done the present native locations are ample for the requirements of the natives for the next 50 years. Until the Government has performed its duty and seen that these lands are properly used, they are not fulfilling their duty to the white or black. It is not performing a duty by giving them a million acres of land to continue their present useless practices. Until they have performed their duty they have no right to ask powers from Parliament to expropriate land from Europeans within the Province. I do not propose that the natives should go to Agricultural Colleges, but I do think that men who have had a training at the Agricultural Colleges and are sympathetic men should be appointed as supervisors of these locations, to point out where the natives could cultivate and to teach them the best economic use of the land. They will respond if we will only just show a little sympathy with them, and I think you will find our native areas to-day are ample for many years to come. If you are going to have this restriction of native purchase of land throughout the Colony and let us have neutral areas, then I make the suggestion to you that all these areas marked yellow, these Mission Reserves, throughout the whole of the country, that they should be areas within which natives can purchase lands. I do not want the Govern-

ment to commit any breach of faith with the missions. The missions to-day are entitled to one-half of the rents from all the natives living on these areas, and if these lands are sold, as they are sold those rents would disappear. Therefore, I say, as the lands are sold and the rents fall off, pay to the missionaries one-half of the interest received from the investments of the money received for the sale of those lands. Give the natives living upon those areas the first right to purchase. If they do not wish to purchase they have no more right than any other native living on locations elsewhere. The best contented, the most orderly, the most prosperous natives in the whole of Natal are the natives on European farms. Natives have gone there because they wish to get away from the control of the chiefs. They pay the extra rental simply with the idea of getting away from the control of the chiefs. If the missionary societies are going to get a permanent population upon these lands amongst whom they could minister, their interests are not going to be prejudiced in any way. Financially they will be in a better position if my proposal is adopted. In dividing up these areas I should limit it to a reasonable area that an individual can cultivate, say not more than 100 acres for arable land. I do not say that they should all have that number, but I do think that certain individuals who show that they are capable and have the means of doing that area—by all means let them do so. My idea was to have areas or plots of from 20 to 100 acres and for every 1,000 acres setting aside a commonage. I am only giving an individual opinion. I say it is the duty of the department to see what the lands are capable of. It is the duty of the missionaries to spend one-half of the rents which they receive in the education and advancement of the natives within those areas. Now they will receive rents so long as rents are payable; as rents cease they will receive one-half the interest of the purchase price of this land. It should be their duty to provide for the industrial education of these natives and pay for it out of those moneys. It should be the duty of the missionaries to educate the natives in the best economic use of the land under their control. I wish to recommend that none of these mission areas should revert to European occupation, not one. I say we are under a moral obligation to the natives, having set aside these lands, to retain them for them for all time. I would not recommend them as neutral areas. It would be exceedingly bad for the natives if they got the idea that we had broken faith with them. There is an enormous temptation for Europeans, and we must say for the Government to set aside some of these lands because they are some of the most valuable lands which are in the whole of the Union of South Africa. We cannot help it; we have ear-marked them and told the natives it was their property, and I do not think we should interfere with it. A native said to me the other day: "Why should not we, if we are capable of going in for sugar cultivation, do so?" All right, here is a sugar area; let him do so on those mission reserves on the South Coast. In conclusion, I want to say that I think the Government ought to re-consider the whole proposal, and I think they would be well advised in both European and native interests if they would allow the *status quo* to remain, with this qualification: that if you are going to absolutely stop any communal purchase of land by natives in the event of any individual purchase of land by a native he shall only be allowed to have native kraals upon it in exactly the same way and under the same conditions as Europeans—he shall receive no monetary return whatsoever; the only return he shall receive is the services of those natives as labourers.

Mr. GEORGE MOE.] I have given my evidence before Sir William Beaumont in Maritzburg. There were no maps showing the recommended areas at that time; my attention was not drawn to them. I was only asked if the present locations were sufficient, and I said yes, if they were properly handled and supervisors appointed to show the natives how to farm, how to utilise that land—then there is sufficient land for more natives, for treble the number if they were shown how to deal with the land: the land near the river for cultivation, half-way up the hill for kraal site and further on for grazing. It is so easily handled, but it becomes more difficult each year. The Chiefs are losing power day by day. I live on the farm "Goedverwachting" in Pietermaritzburg County, adjoining the native area. I have plenty of labour as a result of being surrounded by reserves. I do not find the natives bad neighbours. I work the land myself, so it has not depreciated. The natives prefer being on farms to being in locations. I charge £3 a hut rent; across the border they pay 14s.—that speaks for itself. I see to it that their cattle are taken care of and dipped. When I started in 1913 there were a little over 90 head of cattle; now there are nearly 300 amongst the natives. I have offered the farm to Government. I like the high veld, and it is rather hot there. I like the Free State or Transvaal high veld and have long been thinking of settling there. There are certain areas which I call "white man's country," *i.e.*, high-lying land which is best for European settlement; I would not allow natives to buy there. I would allow them to buy in the thorn country, even in an European area. All the high veld is suitable for European occupation and should be retained for Europeans. I contend that the native, generally, is better off on European farms than in locations. I have 65 kraals on my farm, some of only one hut; there are 124 huts altogether. The buying of land by syndicates should be prevented.

Mr. MASSON, Solicitor.] I wish to make representations regarding one particular

farm in the Ngotshe Division—"Uitgevallen" (No. 613). I am executor in the estate of A. B. Bell, which estate holds a bond over this farm. We have foreclosed, but have not sold the farm in execution yet. A widow is the chief beneficiary in the estate. The bond was passed long before this Act was mooted and I think it would be a great hardship upon the late bond-holder and his widow if this farm fell into native area. So far as the public is concerned, I understand this land is ranching country only, which could only be expended by the expenditure of a great deal of capital, and in native hands it is not likely to go ahead. I understand the farm was valued at 7s. 6d. a morgen at the time the bond was passed. I have no idea as to what the present values may be. My suggestion is that that land can only be developed by European capital and by European energy. In the hands of natives it will more or less remain desolate all the time.

Mr. H. C. KOCH.] As regards my own farm "Doorn Hoek" in the Emtonjaneni Division, I wish to mention that if Government want to buy the farm it is for sale. It adjoins the native reserve. It is 6,425 acres freehold. I think "Weltevreden" would also be for sale; "136A" also—in fact I do not know if it belongs to anybody—"Sterkfontein" also; so that Government could get a big block if needed, which would adjoin the reserve. There is not much water there, but anyhow there is plenty of water and it is good grazing. Before the rinderpest I used to let as a grazing ground, for which it is excellent.

Mr. P. H. TAYLOR, Mayor of Maritzburg, supported by Members of Town Council.] On representing the matter to Messrs. Orr and Buntine they wired back to us to say we had better put the matter before you. We desire to come before you with reference to the catchment area of our water supply in the Zwartkop location. Our present water supply tapping the Zwartkop area was inaugurated somewhere about 1902, and at that time the native population within the catchment area was not very great, in fact it was somewhat limited, and we had a promise from the Ministers of the day that the population would not be increased. It has come to our notice that recently, owing to the purchase of Bishopstowe by private settlers, many natives have been turned off Bishopstowe and are taking up their abode within the immediate vicinity of our catchment area. I think I am correct in saying that the population has increased somewhere by about 1,000 within the last 18 months or two years. Our feeling is this: that after all Maritzburg is a long-settled town, and we feel we have a claim upon the Government not to increase that population in the catchment area, because it is only leading to the pollution of our water supply, which is, of course, a matter we are very much concerned in. Then, again, it has come to our knowledge that there is a projected scheme for planting about 10,000 acres of that area with gum trees. Well, as laymen, it appears that from our point of view it would be very unsatisfactory, because if our information is correct the gum has a very great thirst and it is more than probable it will dry up our water supply. We have gone in for a plantation there, but below our catchment area. It is safe to say that a very large percentage of the population of the Zwartkop location is within our catchment area, and we feel it is very unsatisfactory from our point of view. We would like to reduce rather than increase the population by bringing in natives from Bishopstowe or where they have been turned off private farms. The area of our catchment area is 82 square miles, and we understand the project is to put 10,000 acres under gums. This would do away with the pollution perhaps and with the water also.

Mr. W. J. O'BRIEN.] There was an express promise given by Mr. Moor, who was then the Prime Minister, that the Government would take action not to increase but rather to decrease the population there; in fact, they had removal of the natives from this area in view. Well, of course, after 1906 things got very bad and they were too much taken up with East Coast Fever and drought, and finally we came into Union without anything having been done. The obligation remains, but it has never been carried out. At a meeting of the deputation which proceeded to Pretoria some five years ago to make known certain disabilities under which Maritzburg was labouring under Union, this point was raised in the presence of Sir Frederick Moor, who endorsed the promise which he had given to the Municipality of Maritzburg. Now we feel the Government has certain obligations to an old municipality such as this, and the pollution of the water supply is a very serious thing. The Church lands at Bishopstowe on being acquired by the Church of South Africa were sold, and the natives had to move. The great majority moved practically to the banks of the streams in the Zwartkop location, the population of which has been increased by a great number. It has been represented to the present Government, but not recently. We have been in communication with our own members.

Dr. WOOD (Medical Officer to the Municipality).] The number was estimated to be 100 huts increase within the last two years. They are always liable to outbreaks of specific disease, and if you get specific disease close to the banks of your streams you may get outbreaks of enteric or dysentery. We shall probably get an increase of summer diarrhoea. The number of natives should not be allowed to increase beyond a certain number to the mile, and they should not be allowed to live in any numbers within the vicinity of the streams, which are comparatively small and the valleys are comparatively steep. Purification by percolation is probably incomplete and we find from pathological investigations of the water, which are done every month, that the pollution of the water

is steadily growing worse. We feel that it is necessary that steps should be taken to prevent the continued increase of the pollution of the intakes. *Mr. Chapman* pointed out that the matter is really one outside the privince of the Committee, but that he will discuss it with Mr. Evans and go into the question with him.

Mr. F. E. FOXON.] I am the registered owner of the farms "Montana" and "Frankland" and "Frankland 2." I have recently spent £150 to put up an up-to-date dipping tank on "Montana." It was partly fenced, and I have spent another £50 for fencing material. It is let to two Europeans, who have about 200 head of cattle on it. They went down there last month. Therefore I respectfully request that this farm ("Montana") be withdrawn from the native area. It would be a very great injustice to me if it is included in the native area, because if so it becomes absolutely of no value whatever. The natives will never be in a position to repay me for what I have spent on the farm. It is very broken, but suitable for cattle raising. On the tops I have planted wattles. It is also suitable for mealies and will be used for cultivating same. There are 7 kraals at present on the farm, but they are under notice to leave at the end of this month with the exception of one kraal. There are about 20 huts on the farm. They paid £2 a hut; when they worked I allowed a rebate. The other two farms "Franklands" and "Franklands 2" both carry wattles, and I have built on both. I have over 80 acres of aloes on them, and "Franklands 2," along the Umzumbi, is most suitable for sugar. I bought these farms for my sons. I have 5 sons, and I ask that both these farms be excluded from the native area. According to General Botha's evidence before the Commission of 1903, he pointed out that it was a great mistake to have large blocks of locations, and I am certainly of opinion that it is of advantage to have European farms in between the locations. I wish to point out the very great injustice of confiscating a farm without any reference to the owner. I would not object if they were put in a neutral area, but I do respectfully request that they be removed from the native area. Regarding the farm "Cherrywillingham Park," belonging to Colonel Royston, I certainly think that should be excluded from the native area and also his farm "Buffalo Bill." I think his farms should be included in the neutral area, because I know it was his intention to go on breeding stock on his farms. I have owned these farms about 16 years. I have had Europeans in occupation. At the present moment the men I had on "Franklands" have gone away to the front. Under the Act I paid £10 a year exemption. The lower part of "Franklands" is certainly suitable for cane and also aloes do excellently there. They are also excellent for stock. Regarding the locations generally, there is ample room for all these locations to carry a much larger population if we had superwisors to point out where the kraals shall be built and where the pastoral and agricultural land shall be. The Commission never gave me any indication that my farms would be included in the native area. The Commission had taken evidence in Port Shepstone before I gave evidence. I do not know whether they knew I was owner. I had my own map there. The Commission had the map which I had prepared; it was on the table. That area in Estcourt Division was not recommended by me or by any witness who gave evidence on that day. With regard to the Weenen area, I certainly did not make that recommendation. Mr. Freeman gave evidence, and he was asked if he did not consider it should be a native area, and he said "Yes." I opposed the recommendation as to the proposed additional area near "Schuurfde Poort" in Estcourt Division. Regarding this division, I would like to point out that there are native landowners of small lots in various localities. I think it would be a very great injustice if those lots are included in the European area. Where the natives own free title it should be a neutral area, so that on their deaths that land can be taken over by their sons. The Indians own a considerable quantity of the small lots at "Wilgefontein" and "Slangspruit." I think those lots which have been purchased by natives should be neutral area, so that they can will it to their sons or sell to Europeans. I say that as a general recommendation throughout the country. It would be a very great injustice if they found they cannot transfer it to their sons or sell it to another native. At the same time, if they wish to sell to a European they should have the right to do so. That should apply to all native-owned farms. In Edendale there are about a dozen registered European owners. Edendale was originally a 6,000 acre grant which was ceded to Andries Pretorius by Governor West in the early '40's. It was afterwards sold to the Revd. Allison, the father of the present solicitor, etc. The erven averaged from 6 to 10 acres, and the majority of these still belong to the Wesleyan community. Some have been bought by Europeans because they can get grazing rights over 2,000 acres of land. About 40 Indians have also purchased lots. There are about 78 lots registered in the name of different natives. I think it would be a very great injustice to declare it a native area. I certainly think it should remain as a European area with the exception of those lots which are registered in the names of natives, which should be allowed to remain neutral, and that applies to all the other lots. Every year there are certain natives leaving private farms and great hardship and injustice is being done them. The next farm he wants to go on to the owner says "I cannot take you except as a labourer." That man is a skilled labourer and can earn his £4 a month. He says: "I am quite prepared to pay you £5 a year hut rent." The European says: "I cannot take you,"

and that is where the bitter injustice comes in, and they complain very bitterly. They do not want to go on farms solely as native labourers. Regarding the question of the pollution of the water supply of the town, what they want is to acquire about 1,500 acres to preserve the streams. To equalise that I say those natives must be justly treated, therefore we must give them a native area elsewhere, and I recommend this farm "Onverwacht," which is about 2,500 acres. Part of this belongs to the Colonization Co. and part to the Hermansburg Mission of Berlin, an alien company. They own about 1,100 acres at Ennersdale also. My proposal is that that portion belonging to the society should be confiscated and taken possession of by the Government. The other part should be purchased. Regarding Moe's farm—it should be declared a neutral area. He is endeavouring to sell to the Government. Then you could take the chief from the Zwartkop Location and put him down there.

Mr. JOHN FRASER, solicitor, and Mr. ISAACS also spoke, the former on the undesirability of Edendale being included in a native area and the latter on the general question.

Mr. W. L. L'ESTRANGE, J.P.] I gave evidence before the previous Commission and I was afraid that some of my evidence might have been misconstrued. I quite agree with the idea, as said then, that the mixing of Europeans and natives was detrimental to both of them and I was afraid that it might have been thought that I wished farmers' tenants removed. There was another point as regards town and country living—there might be a hardship if natives were to be turned away from living near the towns where they are in work. My great fear is of the bad effects which would result to both races if they continued to be mixed. From evidence it sounded as if there was a proposal to take away some of the farms that are being beneficially occupied by Europeans. My feeling is that I think it would be a great mistake because the backbone of this country is going to be occupation by Europeans. The natives will come down to small plots of land and work as labourers. The women won't work and the heads of kraals cannot get their sons to work. I have on my place a man to whom I have given three chances, but he cannot get his boys out to work. I do strongly object to natives and Europeans being allowed to continue to be scattered about together. There are certain tracts of land in the country which are not used by natives which could be used by Europeans. The chief place is Zululand—the sugar lands. When we came into office and saw the demarcation of the Saunders and Dartnell Commission, if you took an old map of the fever country and put it over the map of lands to be thrown open they very nearly coincided. I think it would be a great mistake to take those lands and give them back to the natives. Europeans are making good use of them and the natives will not and did not when they had the opportunity. It would be a great mistake to turn this land back into native occupation. There is a piece of land on the South Coast, the Mnini's Reserve, which has never been occupied beneficially, and I think there might be an exchange by purchase of land elsewhere. There is also a tract on the Great Noodsberg which is splendid land indeed. I think it is absolutely against the interests of the country to move white people off lands which are being beneficially occupied to put natives on.

Mr. T. J. ALLISON, Solicitor.] I come as Chairman of the Inanda Wattle Company. In that last delimitation they put the Inanda Wattle Company's property provisionally into a native area, and the application now is that at least a portion of the property should be excluded from the area. The portion we particularly ask to be excluded is comprised of the following sub-divisions, known as the Upper Inanda:—

	Ac.	R.	P.
A. of "Buffels Draai," Victoria County	897	2	3
C. of Sub. 1 Inanda	195	1	15
D. of Sub. 1 „	707	0	22
B. of 1 of „	342	2	6
A, of 11 of „	1,275	0	0
C. of "Buffels Draai"	250	0	27
V. of "Inanda"	1,542	3	10
	5,211	0	3

That property is known as the "Upper Inanda." I now want to refer to the Lower Inanda, which is in extent 1,618 acres. We tried to grow wattles on it, but the land is unsuitable for trees but very suitable for cereals. We were going to put sugar in, but we found the railway was too far away. That land is sub-divided and some of it is being sold to natives with the consent of the Governor-General. Our proposal is to sell out all land there that adjoins the Mission Reserve, with the exception of some small pieces that have been sold to Indians and one block of 172 acres sold to John Swales; we sold it to him at his urgent request as he had no grazing. In urging this we mention that it is a sort of property that natives could never buy. It is far beyond their reach. We have

between 3,400 and 3,600 acres of wattle trees on it. We have made roads. We generally consider that with the road we have made and buildings and improvements generally we have spent between £8,000 and £9,000. I want to add that at the Upper Inanda an extract factory is just about to be erected, in fact the buildings are begun, and this means an expenditure of anything from £15,000 to £20,000. This is actually being done and the Government have authorised the importation of the machinery. I think what applies to ours will probably opply to Armstrong's. The country is all good for wattles, except down below where they do not do well at all. We have sold off, I think, between 400 and 500 acres; Dube bought one lot and Cele bought the other some time ago. Now Cele is also purchasing further lots from us; he has bought 570 acres. If there is such a thing as a neutral area ever going to be declared I should ask that this Lower Inanda be put in that neutral area, because it is suitable both for Indians and Natives. Generally, I think these neutral areas here and there would be exceedingly useful. It seems to me rather hard to put an Indian in a native area who has bought land prior to the law passing, because he has to sell to a native whose purchasing power is nothing like so good as a European's. The average size of the blocks is 5, 10 and 20 acres. The men merely have their women and children there; they themselves work in Durban. The grazing they get next door on the mission and location lands. Of course, a man like Cele is in a different class; he bought £2,000 worth of land from us and asked for terms, and he paid the whole lot up within a year. The history of the Buffalo Flats farms is very simple: they—the natives—absolutely refused to pay. They bought the land from the Natal Government on the 20 years system. Mr. Deane notified them that unless they paid their arrear instalments the land would be entered upon by the Government and the contract cancelled. They came to us and asked us if we would pay up these back instalments. We said No, not unless we paid the whole lot and got a mortgage bond. It was worked out that if each native paid £1 a month for five years the whole lot would have been paid off. At the end of five years in 50 or 60 per cent. of the cases not a penny had been paid. Very, very few indeed paid anything, not even the interest. I may tell you that those bonds which were passed included the whole survey fees. Had those natives paid up their £1 a month they would have had their land free. I think two or three men paid up in full and at the sale of the farms by judicial process got all their money back. It was made joint and several because there was a large proportion of the farms set out as commonage. If you are lending money as a lender and you lend it to a man with 50 acres here and the right to the commonage, the commonage is practically no security to you at all, and that was the trouble. The only persons to blame are themselves. The late Chief Kula could not get them to pay. Mr. Cornforth, of Dundee, took over most of the properties. We hold, unfortunately, the farms called "Clones," "Clare" and "Ladybank"; we had to buy them in. We wrote hundreds and hundreds of notices and the Magistrate assisted us to the best of his ability, but he had to admit it was hopeless. The ideal way for a native to buy is to cut up the ground and for each man to buy separately, but you will so seldom get anybody who will advance the money for that purpose. I think the principle of allowing natives to buy big blocks is wrong, unless there is a proper way of financing it. The interest and principle to be paid within a limited time should not exceed their earning capacity. In some instances they bought at more than the market price: they ran each other up. If they could buy land in small blocks independent of the joint and several principle it would be quite all right. I think they were a bad lot up there really, because in other parts of the country they have paid up well within the time. There is no reason why it should not have been an absolute success. They would not pay anything at all. The native has the love of country the same as the European and with expropriation of the land, however well compensated a man may be, he will never feel compensated from the sentimental point of view. My suggestion is that if you have the neutral areas, buy where you can without any compulsion for the land which is required for settlements.

Report of Meeting held with Natives in Chief Magistrate's Court Room, Maritzburg, during afternoon of 12th June, 1917.

Present: Mr. F. E. Foxon, Chief Magistrate, Maritzburg; Mr. Boast interpreting.

NGOMEZULU, representing Chief STEPHEN MINI.] We are opposed to this law which divides the country. It prevents us from buying where we wish and from renting where we desire to; it is contrary to the law under which we are at present living. To be governed by five Commissioners would be the same as shutting a beast up in a kraal, as it would handicap us from approaching even to the Umgeni Court and to the King. The

Commissioners are autocrats like Tshaka, who used to destroy evil-doers without trial; you only had to annoy Tshaka and you died. I refer to the law of the 12th May, 1843, which said there should be no differentiation of colour—each man should be treated alike—and whether there is any differentiation or not, I wish to prevent any such thing happening again. That law which is now being made is opposed to the law of the late Queen, as they are now dividing up the country. I now refer to the law of 1881, which said that the country in the East, which is Zululand, will be the country of the Zulus. Now it is private lands. The law which we are looking for, now that we have increased so much is that the reserves and locations should be made larger, because the native chiefs are troubled by their smallness and because their natives and even the chiefs themselves are living on the farms. The result is that even the children there fear the landlords; they run away and become loose characters. We have always been glad of the English law because it is a plain and Christian law, and the Christian principle is that you should do unto others as ye would they should do unto you.

Chief MHLOLA.] We have nothing much to add to what has been said by Stephen Mini's induna. We are very much astonished at this law and are utterly opposed to it. We would like it to be entirely repealed. Apparently we are to be governed in the same manner in which Tshaka governed. As far as I can see, we will no longer be allowed to live happily in the land. We have always lived happily under the law of the King, and would have complained very much if we had had any real matter for complaint. We do not want this new law, which we say is like Tshaka's law. If we are to be put apart we will be like wild animals, and if we are separated from the white people we shall be killing one another. It is not proper that we should be put apart when we are living contentedly under the King. I know that if I was ill and we were living amongst ourselves apart, the next man might come along and kill my children. Even in the matter of the dipping levy, this will be increased: they will have to pay 19s. a hut and it will be like having to dip our women folk. What we would ask is that the size of the locations be increased. Our people on private lands are being scattered, and so many live on private lands that we hardly have any tribe left. Natives are being removed from private lands that the size of the tribes are diminished very much.

Chief LADUMA (residing in Zwartkop Location).] It would be a cause of great astonishment if we were told that a child was to be taken away from its father or its mother. My people came from Zululand, and were brought here and according to the law of the King they were put together with the white people. As a result of this Government that we have now, all the people have grown up and are here to-day. The knot which has been tied will be difficult to untie; how can it be done to-day? Locations were provided and also places for the "kolwas," and we do not want that altered in any way. We chiefs have had our status recognised and it has grown under the Government of the King. If we are to be put away in a separate part we shall be dead. We do not want to be parted from you; it is a thing that we cry about most earnestly that we be not parted in any way. We have always been grateful for the fact that we could live on private lands or buy farms of our own or go on locations, just as we chose. I fully concur with what has been said by the previous speakers, especially when they say that our locations should be increased in view of our numbers having also increased to such an extent. That is a thing we ask for very earnestly.

Chief SIDUMO.] I agree with the words of Stephen Mini's representative and also with those or Mhlola. We natives live from generation to generation on the same spot; we do not move. I myself am not living happily, because even when I go on the road no one knows I am a chief. The farmers do as they like on their own farms and say to you, although you are a chief "Go; you have to go." They do not pay any regard to the fact whether you are a chief or not, but say "This is my farm; I bought it with my money. Go, even if you have not had time to look for a new place and have not reaped your crops." At present we know there is a Government looking after us, seeing that we live properly and do not do each other any harm, but where will our authority be in this darkness which will come upon us when we are thrust on one side. All of us natives should join together and have only one voice and listen to what our father the Government says, so that we can lay our grievances before the Government. Even when I call my people they say "We cannot come to you; you must get a letter from the Government. We cannot give any help because we are living on private lands." I ask that I also may be allowed a small piece of location so that I can also speak to the Government. My father was sent up by Sir Theophilus Shepstone to disarm the Langalibalele people. We had a big country, but now all my country has been cut up into private lands. If I could get a little piece of location all my people would come from everywhere.

Chief Mhlola.] If this law is made to-day we will be like orphans, who are brought up by a stranger after the death of their parents. We would cry for the mother who nurses us so well. It would be a cause of very great trouble, and we would always remember the law that we have lost.

Mr. Chapman addressed the assembly, which dispersed about 4 p.m.

COPY.

NATAL MUSEUM.

Pietermaritzburg,
11th June, 1917.

To the Natives Land Committee
(sitting to hear evidence at Pietermaritzburg on June 12th).

Sirs,—With respect to the demarcation of additional land areas as native location, I have the honour to invite your most earnest attention to the subject of the general effect of native occupation on the natural features and resources of the country.

I understand that it is proposed that certain large areas in the forest districts of the Drakensberg, and also a very extensive region in eastern Zululand north of St. Lucia, should be included in the reserved native areas. Both of these areas contain valuable and unique forests, and also lake and marsh areas of a most fascinating character abounding in the characteristic fauna and flora of the country.

It is pitiable to observe the unrestrained action of natives on valuable and beautiful forest land. The devastation that is wrought is appalling, and unless checked it will effect the country very adversely both with respect to general climatic conditions and also with regard to the future timber supply. The native is, of course, by nature extravagant and destructive; he will destroy a whole wooded kloof for one year's crop of maize. The following year the thin bush soil, if any remains, has become exhausted and a second crop cannot be raised. The area passes over to desolation and strong erosion agencies have full play.

It is only necessary to travel along the south coast of Natal in order to be convinced of the crying necessity for an adequate supervision in the matter of the treatment of the land by the native population. The havoc which is being wrought on a once beautiful and fruitful country is melancholy in the extreme and must be seen to be adequately realised. It should be understood that no special blame is being attached to the natives in this connection: in some cases a certain type of European settler has an even still more disastrous action on the natural features of the country. He is as callous with regard to the immediate future as the native is unreflecting.

Is this state of affairs to be allowed in the proposed new native land areas? In the case of the Drakensberg forests there is not the slightest doubt but that they possess an all-important function in inducing a precipitation of rain, and they serve as an essential catchment area for the water supply of a large region. The country cannot afford to allow one of these areas to become a desolate waste, since even at the present time the water supply is scarcely sufficient. In the Zululand districts which it is proposed to include in the native area there is much valuable forest which must be protected against the wastage resulting from native occupation. The chief destructive agencies are (1) fire, (2) numerous unherded goats, (3) continuous encroachment of mealie plots.

At the present time the Government possesses the power to exercise strict supervision with reference to the preservation of forest areas on native lands; but there is no doubt that in the past the matter has not been satisfactorily dealt with; and excessive waste of valuable natural resources is occurring on an ever-increasing scale.

I am of the opinion that the more important Drakensberg forests and the forest and lake areas in Zululand should be Crown lands; but failing this it is hoped that the Committee will only recommend the inclusion of such areas in native locations on the distinct understanding that the Government will take very adequate means to safeguard the forest areas from indiscriminate mutilation such as is taking place at the present time in different parts of the country.

The matter of the preservation of indigenous forests is of the greatest importance to this country from every point of view, and I trust that the Committee may see fit to emphasize very strongly the urgent necessity for the forest areas to be preserved intact whether they are nominally on Crown lands or on native location.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. WARREN.
Director, Natal Museum.

Report of Meeting held in the Chief Magistrate's Library, Durban, on 14th June, 1917.

Present: Mr. T. E. Chapman and the Secretary.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY (Secretary of the Durban and Coast Society of Agriculture and Industry).] Messrs. W. A. Stocken and S. T. Amos will speak on those localities with

which they are intimately acquainted. I have no view at all to lay before you, and only came to thank you for being present to-day, so I will ask your indulgence, as I am very busy at present.

Mr. W. A. STOCKEN.] With reference to the farms "Richmond," "Piezang Rivier," "Groenberg," "Inanda" and "Buffels Draai," I know all these farms more or less intimately. They are all more or less good farms, quite suitable for European settlement, and within easy distance of the railway. Many of them are not occupied by Europeans at present, because of the very bad roads. The farm "Richmond," as an instance, has already been sub-divided into something like 70 sub-divisions—some owned by Europeans, some owned by Indians. A large number of them are bonded to Europeans. On many of them bonds to the value of £10 per acre are at present in existence on these sub-divisions. I myself, with capital and interest, to-day have bonds and capital expended to the extent of £10 per acre on about 250 acres. The land is within 8 miles of the borough of Durban. The only difficulty of access is the bad roads. It (the farm "Richmond") is on the River Umgeni. The sugar lands practically come up to its boundary. There are water holes (not bore holes) being made at considerable expense on different parts of the farm, and it is far less distant from Durban than many lands which are at present closely settled by Europeans. I know some of these lands have been sold by auction for £5 per acre; I think that is probably the average market price on an ordinary sale by auction. A large portion of this property is owned by Mr. Arthur May; some by Mr. F. A. Laughton. None of the owners of this land or the bond-holders have had any notice whatever that this land was being brought within the operation of the Act. That applies generally to all lands proposed to be brought under the Act—no notice whatever has been given to the owners or bond-holders of farms that their farms have been brought within the operation of this Act. With reference to the farms "Spitzkop," "Water Fall," "Riet Valley" and "Krantz Kloof," the greater portion of these farms is most excellent grazing and agricultural land. I own a farm adjacent to the area, and I know the lands. The soil is very rich—some of the richest soil I have ever seen i nNatal. Those lands are extremely fertile and rich. I own the farm "Isinembe Peak" and a portion of "Spion Kop." I consider that land is suitable for anything barring sheep. Very excellent sugar is being grown on the adjoining lands. As a cattle country it is excellent. The farm "Richmond" is practically occupied by Indians at the present time, though mostly on short lease. An excellent road could be made there. These Indians are market gardeners mostly. If this became a native area the security would be gone absolutely. It is well known on the Coast that natives do not purchase land, or very little. There is no demand whatever; there is by Indians, but even that is not so great as it was. Numbers of them are going back to India, and the Government's policy is so unsettling with reference to Indians. I have been interested in a large number of estates which have been cut up and I do not know of any single instance where a native has bought land. I have had no applications myself. I did not give evidence before the Commission and I did not hear of these recommendations at all. None, to my knowledge, of the landowners were notified, and it was by sheer accident that I saw a map. I was rather indignant when I saw the farm was included and I had not been notified. I have been in some of the locations, too, from time to time, and there is ample room for very many more natives than are at present in those location. I speak specially of the Umlazi Location. I think these lands will be wanted for the expansion of the European population before they are really required for any expansion of the native population. I am quite certain it is want of good roads which has prevented the taking up of these lands. I myself have had applications for land, but when they have been there and seen the roads they have said it was utterly impossible. I know that Reserve No. 21 in Zululand is not occupied properly by natives, and there is ample room for many more, and yet it is proposed to bring in land contiguous to it on the other side of the river. I think the European owners of this land would be very seriously affected if they fell within a native area. I should strongly advise clients against lending money on any farm in these areas, in fact I should refuse to put the papers forward for them. The security would be greatly depreciated; the personal part of the security would be nil. Having no market for the land it would be practically valueless to sell by auction. There are small improvements on the farm "Richmond," but nothing of great value. Later on I certainly think the land would be taken up by Europeans. There is a demand for that type of land if it was within easy access of the railway; it would be good dairying country.

Mr. S. T. AMOS.] I want to speak specially with regard to the Ndwedwe, the Inanda, the Umlazi, Nos. 1 and 2 Locations in Alexandra County, and No. 6 (the Ntimbankulu) in Alfred County. These locations are well known to me, because during the period that I was Government Veterinary Surgeon I had occasion to visit these locations when different outbreaks of disease occurred. The whole of the Umlazi Location was cleared by me of native cattle, and also the cattle from a portion of Location No. 1, and the other locations were visited for treatment of stock. Now, I am quite satisfied that in all these locations there is ample room for many more natives than are at present there. The Umlazi Location, specially, is not very densely occupied, and in it there is some of

the best land that you could wish for European farms. As an example of this all one needs to do is to go along the main road on the South Coast and you will go through a portion which is cultivated by Pierce's Sugar Estates: you will see the marked line between that estate and the location land; that will be a splendid example of what cultivation can do, and what native inhabitation really means to land. I do not think you could wish for a better example than what occurs on that piece of land. The whole of the Umlazi Location is simply good cattle country, and much of it would grow cane. Cattle do exceptionally well, and those that we removed from both No. 1 and the Umlazi Location were in particularly good condition. I see that the farm "Induduta" is included in the area. Now to my mind that country there, from "Glenroy" to "Induduta," is one of the finest dairying lands that you could wish to have. I think Mr. Crookes' farm "Induduta" is one of the best dairy farms that we have on the coast in this particular area here. That locality has no stone, but is beautiful ground, and it is certainly a shame to think of including that in native area, especially in view of the fact that your locations are not by any means full. If there was no room there there would be some justification, but to my mind it would be absolutely wrong. As regards private farms on the North Coast, the farm "Riet Valley" I know, and at the back of this farm there is one called "Bulwer." Now, that particular area there always struck me as being the most beautiful portion of our country from a dairy point of view, but absolutely inaccessible inasmuch as the road to "Riet Valley" was never kept in anything like decent repair. That area struck me as being really a dairying portion of our country. That country is not occupied for the simple reason that there has been very little encouragement to Europeans to go there and, not only that, diseases have deterred people—not so much tick fever as ordinary redwater. Before the advent of dipping there is no doubt about it a man came here and in two years £500 to £1,000 capital was all gone, because we did not understand the governing of disease. To-day we can safely put men on to farms which we could not possibly do before. Think back a few years —men would never dream then of bringing horses down to the coast. We find now that people are coming on to the coast and taking up small settlements, which they never could do before. That land was really the land of the pioneer: take "Riet Valley," occupied by the late Mr. Essery. When he was there alone he was the one unit; there was nobody else near him. But surely that land will be required for European settlement. Another blow that they got there was the disease of coffee, which nearly ruined Mr. Essery. Then I come back to the Inanda, which was lately occupied by Mr. George Armstrong and Walter Groom, and is now leased to the Wattle Company. I consider that the farms occupied by Groom, George Armstrong and John Swales—to think of putting them into native territory is wrong. That land is most beautiful cattle country. Now it is growing wattle, and to think of putting that into native territory is absolutely wrong The same remarks apply to John Swales' farm, because it is peculiarly a Coast farm with a fair altitude, where cattle do exceptionally well, and it is one of the finest dairying farms you ever wished to be on. I think he sold it to the Inanda Wattle Company at a fair figure; it was an offer which he would not decline. "Groenberg" is really the cattle grazing farm of the Natal Estates. It has the virtue that cattle which are raised there are immune to redwater, and therefore it is a most valuable adjunct to any Coast estate. Sherron's is not too good a farm: it is a medium farm. One of the Swales wanted to buy that farm to live there himself, which evidenced that it was suitable for European occupation. The farm "Richmond" I have been over, and I am quite certain that the farm has suffered only through the road, which is a very bad one indeed. I think the whole of that area should not be put into native reserve, especially in view of the fact fact that there is ample room in the native locations if they are properly governed. I think the question of dealing with natives in reserves has acted very well, and I do not see any reason why we should alter their lands at all. I do not think the time when they are overflowing is likely to come for very many years. Why cannot these reservations—for them to buy land—be made to portions of their own reserves, which contain most beautiful land. I am certain that if the Government threw open the Umlazi Location, in view of its beautiful soil, its dairying possibilities, and its growing all kinds of food, I am quite certain it would be fully taken up by Europeans at once. If it is good enough for us then it ought to be good enough for natives to purchase. So let them purchase in their own locations. I guarantee there is no farm has more solid improvements than John Swales' farm. Picture yourself in his place and find that your sons cannot sell to anyone but a native.

Mr. E. B. DUNKERTON (Chairman of the Durban Chamber of Commerce).] Anything I may have to say will be as regards the manner in which the commercial community of Natal is affected. I have seen the report which was presented by the sugar people's Committee and we have had a good many opportunities of discussing the question. The point which we, as a Chamber, would like to bring to your notice is the absolute necessity in view of the world shortage of foods, which will probably be more severe for a few years after the war, of developing all land which can be used to the best ability. There are only certain districts in Natal which are capable of being utilised for sugar, and we think they certainly should be reserved so that sugar should be produced. We do not mean

from a narrow Natal point of view but from a world point of view; that any place which can produce sugar should do so. I was very pleased that Mr. Stocken and Mr. Amos had given their evidence first, because they brought specific cases to prove that it is absolutely in the interests of the commercial community and the country generally that these areas should continue to be reserved for Europeans. All we can add as a Chamber who are interested in store-keepers and farmers is to state that a good many farmers say their interests, which represent a lifetime's work, are in danger of being wiped out. I think the whole Chamber wish to bring to your notice that in the interests of Natal and South Africa and the world generally every acre capable of being developed should be utilized to its fullest advantage.

Mr. E. A. BRUNNER.] I wish to point out to the Committee that when Sir Charles Saunders and Sir John Dartnell delimited Zululand, that portion which was then called Vryheid District was not dealt with, and in consequence of that certain chiefs and men of very high standing there have all been left out in the cold, and I have the names of those chiefs who really ought to be considered as far as land is concerned:—

Ngotshe District.—Hamu's son, Kambi; Masipula's son, Maboko; Mnyamana's son, Mapovela; Mnyamana's nephew, Msikila; Sivuma.

Vryheid District.—Chief Hali, Chief Lubudhlungu, Chief Zombode, Chief Ngambu, Mnyaiza.

Paulpietersburg District.—Mnyaiza, Hali.

Piet Retief District.—Masipula's son, Sitambi; Ndida's son, Magubulundu; Mtshegula; Mletshe.

All those people are living on farms. They are people who might honestly claim that something should be done for them. I made a point to the Committee about Zululand having been delimited and that the natives were given plainly to understand that this meant a settlement for good. Now, if that held good for the natives it held good for the whites, and if they are encroaching on that settlement they are breaking faith with the Imperial Government's promises, both to Europeans and natives. I am speaking of the policy of again touching Zululand; after the Saunders-Dartnell Commission had delimited the country, the population, both black and white, were given to understand that this delimitation was to hold good and that however much the European population of both Natal and Zululand were disappointed in the result of the Commission, that they had no choice—they had to take over the land on those farms which they now hold. It is unfair and a breach of the Home Government's conditions and promises held out and laid down then if they again encroach on what was then laid off either for European or native occupation. I hold that that recommendation should hold good. I maintain that it is bound to hold good. Those were the conditions upon annexing, and those conditions could not be altered now. Also there is the broad aspect of the thing: that there is ample land for natives who want to remove from European farms. Of course, there is this difficulty: that is the definition of the term "labour tenant." If the labour tenants only had to be kept on it would mean that practically all the natives of Natal would have to remove, but if that is altered it will mean that there will not be the need for setting aside all this land. There is plenty of land in the locations at present, provided the natives are taught how to farm and are encouraged as regards the disposal of their produce. I once put a proposition before Mr. Moor, that is since the world's market is open to South Africa for mealies, that if the Government were to say to the natives: "You plant mealies as much as you like and we will guarantee you a standard price, say 7s. a muid, or whatever it is, for mealies delivered at the nearest magistracy. We will never give you a penny more; if you can get more anywhere else go there, but we will secure you this standard price." Now it would then be worth his while to plant. That would certainly be an encouragement for the natives to plant. I say there is no reason at all for setting aside additional land for natives.

Mr. SYKES, of "Riet Rivier."] The shaded portion on the map is commonage belonging to W. Sykes & Sons. . We have all the lots but one there. Most of the land in that area is fairly good agricultural land, but mostly good for grazing. It is the only available grazing for those people there; all the other land is either taken up with cane or wattles. The Wattle Company talk about going in for cane too; they are negotiating now, Speaking as from the Sugar Association, of which I am a delegate, they oppose the Bill altogether. All this land is the only grazing the sugar estates and others there have. Speaking for those who are included, they strongly object to being included in the area, because their grazing is being taken away. The land owned by Cheron is all good for cultivation. We do not want to encourage Indians growing cane; it should be a white man's industry. It is all valuable land and not much use to the native. In the Inanda Mission Reserve and the others adjoining there is ample room for the natives for the next 50 or 100 years. I would recommend that the native be allowed to buy land in the mission reserves if he wishes to. The cultivation in the mission reserves at present is exactly similar to the method elsewhere. The Inanda Mission Reserve is more thickly populated than the reserve, but even though it is thickly populated there is room for hundreds and hundreds more. As regards the southern area in Lower Tugela Division, the reason that land has not been used is that it has been too far away in former years for them to grow

the cane and send to a mill, but now they have the mills tolerably close. The land there is ten times more valuable now than it was in the old days. In former years on all this coast belt if you brought a beast down from Mooi River in six weeks or so he would not be there; he would be buried. Now you can bring stock down from any part of the country. That land is ten times as valuable as it was ten years ago. Probably that was the biggest reason it was not occupied. It is really a good district for stock and without a doubt it will be taken up. That land would be worth from £3 to £4 an acre. The sugar lands near our place are worth from £10 to £12. The land adjoining the latter is grazing land and worth about the same—£3 to £4. The rainfall is practically the same all the way through, although this last season it has been better inland. If this proposal went through it would mean that a lot of land now under cultivation would have to be kept for grazing. Europeans could make a good living out of dairy farming. The soil is fairly good and both areas are quite healthy. Our county has more than ample for native locations. The locations are very thinly populated, except parts of the Mapumulo Location. The natives say it is cheaper to buy than cultivate. Every year they are growing less and less. The women are getting lazier; the men never have done the cultivation. They can buy their food cheaper from Europeans than grow it themselves. Where they would pick 5 or 6 acres they do not do 2 now. Very few natives want to buy land. There is a small demand amongst the Kolwa section. They would buy 4 or 5 acres, on which they would build a hut and then go to Durban to earn enough to pay their taxes. There is not one man in our locality who has cultivated his lot. It is unfair to the natives that the Indian should not be affected. If that became a native area I very much doubt if the natives would acquire it individually; I do not think it would ever be sold. That would apply to both these areas. I have been through Zululand once or twice and the land they have marked off is absolutely some of the best land in the country. The natives will never improve that land, whereas the European will make enormous use of it and be of great value to the country. The Zululand sugar belt is better altogether than our coast lands. I think the native would be like the Indian as regards growing sugar cane. He is no cultivator; he cannot employ labour, and one bad season finishes him. If there was not enough land laid out for natives we would not oppose it, but as there is such an enormous amount allotted for natives we oppose it with all our might.

Mr. H. S. BROADBENT, Solicitor, Camperdown.] In the course of discussion of the matter with the Chief Native Commissioner it transpired that "Riet Vallei" at Camperdown was not included in the proposed native area, and I informed him that the Gibsons of Standerton had two farms, viz. "Spitzkop" and "Zandfontein," which would fit very well on to the native location. These gentlemen gave me a statement authorising me to appear on their behalf, but this statement was drawn up before this Bill was passed and the gist of it is really opposing the Act altogether. I laid the matter exactly before these people and pointed out that if the Bill became law it would be to their advantage if their farms came in a native area, because they draw their labour from them. They bought them for that purpose and have an arrangement whereby one-half of the boys work for six months and the other half for the remaining six months. As large employers of labour it is a serious matter for them if their farm is in a non-native area. I merely wish to recommend that under the circumstances this farm be included in the native area. I understand the farm (the two really form one farm) is of no use except for native occupation. There is not a great demand for land in Camperdown Division. There are one or two holders of land in the division. My experience is that natives do not keep land very long. The first thing is a mortgage bond, and the next thing is a foreclosure.

Copy of Statement handed in by Mr. H. S. Broadbent :—

In the matter of the Native Affairs Administration Bill and the Native Lands Commission.

We, John and A. Gibson, of Standerton, Transvaal, being freehold owners of the farms known as "Spitzkop" and "Zandfontein" situate in the Division of Camperdown, Province of Natal, declare that we have instructed and desire our Camperdown agent and solicitor, Mr. H. Stidston-Broadbent, to appear before the Native Lands Committee wheresoever and whensoever it shall be convenient or appointed and there and then to give evidence before the said Committee representing our views as owners of the said farms.

2. The said farms are occupied entirely by natives and all the natives therein are employed by us in our business at Standerton from time to time for periods of not less than six months in every year each native, and we look to the said farms for our native labour supply, for which purpose we acquired the said farms.

3. We understand that under the proposed new Act as also under the Natives Land Act, 1913, the whole of the lands of the Union will be divided into native areas and non-native areas, and we have therefore to consider the effect of these laws upon our interests as landowners and also generally.

4. We also understand that the proposed Act if passed will repeal the Natives Land Act, 1913, and if not passed the said Act of 1913 will still remain in force and that under the existing Act (1913) we are unable to introduce new native tenants on our said farms and may not sell to a native (being a non-native area) without the consent of the Governor-General. And that under the proposed new Act if our said farms remain a non-native area we shall be under many disabilities which will greatly restrict and limit our rights to place and keep native tenants on our said farms and materially interfere with our right of full and free enjoyment of our freehold property. And that if declared a native area we shall be liable to loss of our lands by Government expropriation under Sections 10 and 23 of the said (proposed) Act.

5. We recognise that should our lands become a native area we may be benefited by the demand there will then be on all native areas for native occupancy which may increase our labour supply, but we object to the Expropriation Clause of the said Bill, and further we view with anxiety and suspicions the powers of legislation over native areas which will be placed in the hands of the proposed Permanent Native Affairs Commission and in the hands of the Governor-General under the said Act (if passed), which power we understand will extend even so far as to differentiate as between one native area and another and which power does not appear to be in any way limited so as not to affect or injure the rights of the freehold owner in and over his lands in a native area.

6. Should our lands remain a non-native area we perceive that such endless trouble, expense, and inconvenience will be caused to us as owners of native occupied farms as to make our tenure unbearable and unprofitable, so that we shall be compelled to sell and then, being so compelled and for such reasons, the value of the said farms will be reduced to such a "minimum" as to entail upon us a most serious loss.

7. We therefore rely upon our said agent, knowing our view, to present the same in the best and strongest light to the said Committee, as also our conclusion, which is that whilst strongly opposing the said Act and the proposed new Act, if the latter is passed we would prefer, as the lesser of the two evils, that our said farms be declared to be in or part of a native area.

Dated at Standerton, Transvaal, this 19th day of March, 1917.

(Signed) JOHN GIBSON,
Standerton.

ALEX. GIBSON,
Standerton.

As Witness:
(Sgd.) F. IRESON.

Report of a Meeting with the Members of the Land Board, Natal, on July 24th, 1917.

Present: Mr. T. E. Chapman. Messrs. G. C. Mackenzie (Chairman of Land Board), Lillburn, Watson and Ross, the Chief Native Commissioner and the Surveyor-General. Mr. A. White, of Native Affairs Department, taking notes.

Mr. Chapman explained the reasons necessitating the absence of Mr. Maurice Evans and informed the Board that he had told Mr. Evans that he intended asking them to give evidence. They agreed that it was an excellent idea, especially as they were dealing with land pure and simple. He left it to the Board to deal with the land they were more particularly acquainted with. The map of Zululand was produced and Mr. Watson explained the area with which he was acquainted. Mr. Chapman pointed out the areas visited in Northern Zululand.

Mr. WATSON.] From the Hluhluwe North as far as the Ntambana, the land of this country is the finest in Zululand either for cattle or sugar farming and is splendid grazing ground.

Mr. MACKENZIE.] The fattest cattle I have ever seen were there. There are kraals, but not a great number of them. When we travelled through we hardly saw a native the whole way along. The water supply was not very good when we were there in the winter. Some parts were quite dry. Down by the Umsinene River it was very bad. No information about the rainfall. It was July when we were there and there was a heavy frost.

Mr. Watson.] We were there about a fortnight and went over it thoroughly. We have not been further north and know nothing about it—in the Umfolozi Division we went as far as the Isangweyana. Then we came back and passed Dunn's Store—the Patane—and thence home. We noticed from there very few natives and there was very good land, too. Ntambanana Valley: This part consisted of very poor shaley soil, and in parts there was Nagana. The middle portion was suitable for grazing. Good grazing land to the other side of Nseleni, just the other side of the ridge. The north side of the Mhlatuzi

SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Valley is good grazing and good for general farming, and the people there are doing well. Mhlatuzi farms in the valley, west of the last, all private farms, but I am not prepared to speak of those. It is broken country.

Mr. Mackenzie.] Very good cattle country. Some farms are occupied. Nkandhla: I have been over the land. We do not agree that they should be recommended. Very good farming lands. All the people were interviewed and they are making good livings. If they do not pay their instalments we should know they were not doing well. There are a good many Dutch there. They are quite satisfied to get a living. I would not recommend that this area be returned to native areas. There are two or three farms which have been handed over to the Natal Native Trust. They have been sub-divided and handed over to various natives. How are they doing?

CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER.] They are doing very well.

Mr. Chapman.] The Nqutu farms are recommended also.

Mr. Watson.] I have not been up there since they have been occupied, but they seem to stick to the farms, and ownerships have not changed much. I think they should stand. Nondweni might go. Berg lands generally: Cold, not suitable for natives. Buffalo Flats, Newcastle and Dundee Divisions—Area No. 4: I cannot say; I do not know sufficient about them. Mr. Ross knows that part. Vryheid lands: I do not know much about them. From Somkele the land is very good. With regard to native occupation of reserve, none of it is very densely occupied.

Mr. Mackenzie.] The only densely populated land is in Ngotshe.

Mr. ROSS.] My opinion was that when we were there we all asked—where are the natives?

Mr. Chapman.] Is the sandy land in process of becoming valuable land? Would it improve and become more valuable with age?

Mr. Watson.] Yes, it is possible it might.

Mr. Chapman.] Now, land of a sandy nature, who would farm it best—native or European?

Mr. Watson.] As regards the country round Lake St. Lucia, I think the native. With regard to cane, I do not know whether it will grow. For general farming, I say the natives.

Mr. Mackenzie.] I can only confirm what Mr. Watson has said.

Mr. Ross.] I know no more than what Mr. Watson has said. I was with him all over the country and we are of one opinion. I can only corroborate. With regard to the Buffalo Flats, it is good cattle and agricultural country. It has stretches of semi-thorn down towards Dundee; when you get further east of Newcastle it is just open country, but all very good. Water can be found anywhere. Although it is a bit short of water it is fine arable country. Down to the Buffalo River it is rather sandy on the banks—rather bare—but wherever you get ant-heap country it is good for growing mealies. The mealie crops there certainly looked good. The farmers struck me as being men living on their cattle and their mealies. The cattle were a nondescript crowd; they do not put themselves out to improve their breed. Those flats with fertiliser would grow splendid crops. Apart from that, it is such a fine flat country for agriculture—such fine long stretches. Drakensberg: My views are the same as Mr. Watson's. The land is much too cold. Little valleys here and there where natives might squat, but on the slopes of the berg it is absolutely hopeless.

Mr. LILLBURN corroborates what Mr. Watson has said. With regard to the land referred to as being of a sandy nature, did you dig down?

Mr. Chapman.] Yes, and the land came out absolutely white.

Mr. Lillburn.] In several parts of Zululand there is absolutely pure sand on the top, but if you go down two feet you find different soil altogether.

Mr. Chapman.] Along the valley there are pockets of good land—by Madonela's (on the Pongolo). Much of the country, I think, is in course of formation.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL.] The timber that is protecting the country is what is going to do it good.

Mr. Lillburn.] Some of the best cane we have had has been from the land near the sea. It is the best we have ever had. It is caused through the leafy soil.

Surveyor-General.] Central Northern Zululand is very sandy: although there are trees it is not like that you are speaking of.

Mr. Chapman.] Ntambanana Valley, I think, is admitted to be very good land.

Mr. Lillburn.] The natives have, as you know, been tried on irrigation plots and they have absolutely failed. I mean they have been pampered to that extent on the Tugela.

Chief Native Commissioner.] No, not failed entirely. We would like to show you the place. I can assure you that those people are doing well. They get their crops of mealies and pumpkins, and nearly everyone grows beans, etc. Quite a big trade is done, and most of them are paying good rents fairly regularly. It is quite a mistaken opinion to think that the lands are not worked properly. The water is properly regulated in every respect.

Mr. Watson.] If the whole of the land as marked off is put into native areas, there is nothing for the European.

The Board wishes to point out that it had not been asked to give evidence before the first Commission.

COPY.

The Senate, Cape Town,
14th March, 1917.

M. S. Evans, Esq., C.M.G.,
C/o Natal Provincial Secretary,
Maritzburg.

My dear Evans,—I understand you have been appointed to report on some of the Schedules to the Natives Land Bill.

I did not see the map and schedules to the report last year before leaving for England. On inspecting them recently I was surprised to find the watershed area of the Drakensberg, in Schedule No. 13, Natal, had been interfered with and roped into the native area.

I have had more than one promise, in debates both in Natal Parliament and in the Senate, that Government would retain the steep slopes and tops, for forest and water conserving. I saw Colonel Stanford to enquire how the Commission came to include this area of Crown lands and stated my views. He gave me a very unconvincing reason that it was to preserve these lands for this purpose and that by vesting it in native area it would be out of temptation of Ministers to alienate to squatters, etc.

We passed a Forest Act and provided proper machinery for demarcating off such areas.

Giving the natives the idea they can run goats and burn off grass *ad lib.* and letting them acquire ideas of ownership of lands (no good for living on) is not the way to preserve forest and scrub and conserve soil moisture. That is so well known to anyone who has been there that I went to the Lands Department to enquire their reason and that of the Forest Department for acquiescing. Far from agreeing to this, they object, but were never consulted, and sympathise with my wish to have it handed to the Forest Department. The Irrigation Director is still more emphatic on the point and will take action, I think, himself, as other areas are also affected, of which I know nothing.

It may be years before the Government Forest Department will have money available to take the area in hand and treat it as it should be treated, but they would like to conserve it as far as possible from getting worse.

The Irrigation authorities take a *very* serious view of the harm being done by forest and scrub destruction on steep slopes and mountain ranges, such as the great main watersheds. Goats, cattle and grass-fires are, as you know, the worst, and natives hunting for new mealie patches the next most destructive agents.

The latter factor is not to be feared in the area in question, as natives do not live within a few miles of the area, and it is quite unsuitable for cultivation or farming, but they cut poles and firewood.

From mid-August, after the frosts relax, to mid-October, there is young grass and grazing for goats and cattle—for eight weeks perhaps in the year—on the lower slopes. To get this young grass the natives burn out every year some bush and the goats are nearly as bad as a fire, often they are worse in destroying everything.

I think you know enough of the area I mean to realize I am not wanting to deprive natives of their lands. They don't live in those bleak parts, but a few miles down the valley where the slopes are less and alluvial has started to collect on the stream banks. They have never lived, even in the location which belongs to them now, on the real Berg slopes in question, and they should not be led to think they can do what they want there now.

If we strip the Berg of soil, as the Cape mountains are being stripped, and fast rendered waterless in dry seasons, where will be the water in the Vaal and Orange Rivers for the big irrigation schemes being discussed for future undertaking?

Do please, I entreat you, re-examine the allocation of these Berg slopes and tops in the light of these suggestions and call for a report of the views of the Director of Irrigation and Chief Forester and also Secretary for Lands. Dr. Warren and Dr. Bews, of Natal University Staff, I am sure, support my view.

I wish I had known earlier of your new Committee on these lands. I should have written earlier.

Trusting I am still in time, believe me, with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) FRANK F. CHURCHILL.

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY
D 000 521 190 9

	Price. s. d.
Education Pamphlets—(*Continued*):	
17. Education Office Library Catalogue 1902	0 6
18. School Libraries	
20. School Board Act and Regulations (English) 1912	0 9
20. Do. do. do. (Dutch) 1912	0 9
The School Board Amendment Act No. 45 1908	0 6
The School Board Amendment Act No. 25 1909	0 4
Fencing Act, No. 17, 1912 (English and Dutch)	0 6
Field Cornet's Manual, 1904 (English)	2 0
Do. do. (Dutch)	5 3
Education Commission, Minutes of Evidence, Vol. 1-4, 1911 (English only) each	5 0
Explosive Act with Regulations, 1911	1 0
Geodetic Survey of South Africa, Vol. I., 1894	7 6
Do. do. Vol. II., 1899	10 6
Geslacht Register der Oude Kaapsche Familiën:	
Vol. 1, A-J, ½ Cloth nett	7 6
Do. ½ Calf	14 0
Vol. 2, A-O, ½ Cloth nett	7 6
Do. Cloth	11 6
Do. ½ Calf	17 0
Vol. 3, P-Z, ½ Cloth nett	7 6
Do. Cloth	13 9
Do. ½ Calf	20 0
1 Set Vols. 1, 2, and 3, ½ Cloth nett	21 0
Gazette, Cape Govt., Proclamations and Principal Govt. Notices, Index to, 1803-1881	6 6
Gazette, Cape Govt., Proclamations and Principal Govt. Notices, Index to, 1881-1891	4 0
Gazette, Cape Govt., Proclamations and Principal Govt. Notices, Index to, 1891-1901	6 6
Gazette, Cape Govt., Index to, to June, 1906 (half-yearly) each	1 6
Gazette, Cape Govt., Index to, July, 1906, to December, 1909 (half-yearly) each	2 6
Gazette, Cape Govt., Index to, January, 1910, to 30th May, 1910	2 6
Gazette, Union Govt., Index to, June to September, 1910 nett	5 0
Gazette, Union Govt., Index to, January, 1911, to March, 1914 nett	5 0
Gazette, Union Govt., Index to, April, 1914, to March, 1916 (Quarterly) nett	2 6
Gazette, Cape Official, Index to, June to December, 1910	1 6
Gazette, Cape Official, Index to, January to June, 1911	1 0
Gazette, Cape Official, Index to, July, 1911, to June, 1916	1 6
Griqualand West, Laws of, 1871-1880	6 6
Historical Documents (Theal), Dutch, 1896, Vols. 1 and 2 each	1 6
Historical Documents (Theal), Dutch, 1911, Vol. 3	12 6
Horse, Diseases of and their Treatment, by Dr. Hutcheon (English or Dutch)	4 0
House of Assembly, Index to Annexures and Printed Papers, 1854-97, 1898-1903 and 1904-1910 each	7 6
House of Assembly, Standing Rules and Orders of, 1912, English or Dutch, each	3 6
Insolvency, Act to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to (No. 32 of 1916)	1 0
Irrigation Act with Regulations, 1912 (English and Dutch) each	3 0
Irrigation in America, 1915 (Lewis)	10 6
Justices of the Peace, Manual for the guidance of, 1891 (Tennant)	10 0
Kaffir War of 1835, Documents relating to the (Theal)	10 6
Leprosy, Handbook on, 1896 (Impey)	12 0
Liquor Laws, 1900	0 9

	Price. s. d.
Marine Investigations in South Africa, Vol. I.	20 0
Do. do. Vol. II.	15 0
Do. do. Vol. III.	20 0
Do. do. Vol. IV.	20 0
Do. do. Vol. V.	10 6
Marriage Laws, 1903	1 6
Marriage Law Amendment Act No. 11 of 1906	0 4
Miners' Phthisis Commission, Report of the, 1911, English or Dutch each	2 6
Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee, General Report of the, 1916	7 6
Mines, Works and Machinery Act with Regulations, 1911	2 6
Municipalities, Acts of Parliament relating to	3 0
Native Territories, Statutes, Proclamations and Government Notices in force on the 30th June, 1907 Linen covers	12 6
Do. do. Bound, non-interleaved	16 6
Ordinances, Cape Provincial 1911	1 0
Do. do. do. 1912	2 0
Do. do. do. 1913	1 0
Do. do. do. 1914	1 0
Do. do. do. 1915	1 0
Do. do. do. 1916	1 6
Do. Natal do. 1911	3 0
Do. do. do. 1912	2 6
Do. Orange Free State Provincial, 1911	3 6
Do. do. 1912	2 6
Do. Transvaal Provincial, 1911-12	2 6
Patents: Act to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to the granting of Letters Patent for Inventions and for the Registration of Patents Designs, Trade Marks and Copyright (No. 9 of 1916)	1 0
Postal Route Map, Mounted on Rollers	6 6
Do. do. Unmounted	1 0
Precious Minerals Act, No. 31, 1898	1 4
Do. do. Amendment, No. 16, 1907	0 6
Do. do. (Selections)	1 0
Precious Stones Act, No. 11, 1899	1 4
Do. do. Amendment No. 27, 1907	0 5
Public Health Act, 1902	2 6
Public Service List, 1914	5 0
Records of Cape Colony (Theal), Vols. 3-35 (1799-April, 1831), per Vol.	17 6
Records of Cape Colony (Theal), Register of Contents, Vol. 1-35	17 6
Records of South-East Africa (Theal), Vols. 2-9, per Vol.	17 6
Rural Council, Rules and Regulations for the Guidance of the nett	0 4
Sheriff's Instructions (Revised)	6 0
Stamp Duties Handbook, with Decisions of the Inland Revenue Department, 1916	2 6
Statute Law of the Cape of Good Hope, 1896 to 1900	42 0 each with index.
Statute Law of the Cape of Good Hope, 1902 to 1906	
Statute Law of the Cape of Good Hope, Index to, 1896-1900 (Bound)	21 0
Statute Law of the Cape of Good Hope, Index to, 1902-1906 (Stitched)	5 0
Statistical Registers	21 0
Statistical Year Book, 1912-13 [U.G. 32—'14]	7 6
Do. do. 1913-14 [U.G. 14—'15]	10 6
Do. do. 1914-15 [U.G. 17—'16]	10 6
Do. do. do. (Supplement) [U.G. 26—'16]	0 6
Supreme Court, Rules of	1 0
South Africa Act (Union) nett	0 6
Do. Index to nett	0 6
South African National Convention Minutes, English or Dutch	5 0
Trade and Shipping, Monthly Statement of the, each	3 6
Trade and Shipping, Annual Statement of the, each	30 0
Transfer Duty, Law of, 1894	2 6

Cape Colony Coat of Arms in Colours, Sheet 22½" × 17½", 1s. 3d. each.